

CITY OF



COVENTRY

THE HEALTH SERVICES OF COVENTRY IN 1956

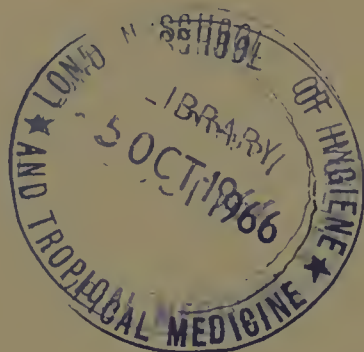
BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. MORRISON CLAYTON

M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.



CONTENTS

	Page
Public Health and Pensioners Committees 	3
Public Health Staff 	4—7
City's Vital Statistics 	8
M.O.H.'s Survey on Social and Service Conditions ...	9—14
Poliomyelitis 	16
Tuberculosis, Mass Radiography and Home Visiting ...	17—18
Veneral Diseases 	19
National Health Service Act, 1946 	20—60
Mental Health 	60—66
National Assistance Act, 1948 	67—91
Housing, Slum Clearance and Overcrowding 	103—105
Water Supply and Analyses 	91—92
Staff Changes 	95
Environmental Hygiene 	96—108
Public Abattoir, Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies 	109—129
Food Hygiene 	130—132
Air Pollution 	132—136
Rodent Control 	139
Statistical Tables and Charts 	142—158

HEALTH COMMITTEE

As at 31st December, 1956

Chairman—Councillor Mr. R. LOOSLEY.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor Mr. R. NICKSON.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Mr. W. I. THOMSON).

The Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Mrs. P. M. HYDE).

Alderman Mrs. E. A. ALLEN.

Alderman Mr. J. LATHAM.

Councillor Mr. K. BENFIELD.

Councillor Mr. W. A. BINKS.

Councillor Mr. W. CALLOW.

Councillor Mrs. E. JONES.

Councillor Mr. T. LOCKSLEY.

Councillor Mr. C. D. SWAIN.

Dr. J. BALLANTINE (nominated by the Coventry Branch of the British Medical Association).

Mr. H. C. HANNAM-CLARK (nominated by the No. 20 Group : Hospital Management Committee).

Dr. N. J. L. ROLLASON (nominated by the Local Executive Council).

PENSIONERS COMMITTEE

As at 31st December, 1956.

Chairman—Councillor Mr. C. WARD.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor Mr. A. D. SMITH.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Mr. W. I. THOMSON).

The Deputy-Mayor (Alderman Mrs. P. M. HYDE).

Councillor Mrs. M. E. STONEMAN.

Councillor Mr. H. STANLEY.

Councillor Mr. E. A. HULL.

Councillor Mr. G. D. MANN.

Co-opted Members :—

Mrs. H. ASHBY.

Mrs. E. M. GARDNER.

Mrs. M. JEFFS.

Mr. O. NEALE.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, Principal School Medical Officer, Medical Adviser to the Pensioners Committee and to the Children's Committee :

T. M. Clayton, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

J. Ardley, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare :

Janet Margaret Done, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.

Assistant Medical Officers :

Christine Glynn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Catherine T. Howat, M.B., Ch.B.

Vivien Phillips Helme, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.

T. J. G. Howie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.

Christine J. T. Jamieson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Mary A. H. Lawson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Mary Simpson Martin, M.D., Ch.B.

Patricia C. Powell, M.B., Ch.B.

J. M. B. Porter, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

Public Analyst : F. G. D. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.I.C.

Veterinary Officer : W. Dale, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Health Inspectorate

Chief Public Health Inspector ...	R. Williams, O.B.E., D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.S.I.A.
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Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector ...	E. A. Johnson.
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Divisional Inspectors ...	T. E. Willmott. D. C. Norcliffe.
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Meat Inspectors ...	L. Vivian (Senior). W. Bowen-Davies.
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Senior Food and Drugs Inspector	H. Ellis.
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Food and Drugs Inspectors ...	H. Lenton. D. H. Evans. B. McCutcheon.
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Housing and Canal Boats Inspector	R. D. Hayne.
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Assistant Housing Inspector ...	B. A. Seal.
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District Public Health Inspectors :	J. E. Saunders, G. L. Morris, P. J. Wightman, L. D. Cowell, J. Lowe, J. E. Smith.
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Student Public Health Inspectors :	A. Harrison, J. B. Simpson, E. Wright, D. Wilson.
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Rodent Officer ...	W. J. Brown.
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Health Visitors :—

Superintendent ... Miss M. D. Lloyd.

Deputy Superintendent
(M. & C.W.) Miss K. L. Houlton.

Deputy Superintendent
(School Health) Mrs. B. E. Mackie.

Health Visitors : Misses :—A. Docherty, A. M. Dalton, M. G. Bridges, B. J. Sims, S. Howgill, M. Engstenberg, S. T. Deane, E. Fraser, E. C. Harmsworth, D. Jones, J. E. Lusty, A. F. McKenzie, M. Phillpotts, E. M. Stidworthy, B. W. Thomas. Mrs. :—M. K. Dunncliffe, G. Foulsham, B. Grainger, M. E. Harris, N. Lever, M. Lewis, L. Picken, J. M. Pye, E. P. P. Talbot, P. O. Wilson, E. Dickenson, J. R. Hayward, J. M. Jelley, J. B. Houghton, S. Gascoyne, G. M. Mather.

Part-time Health Visitor : Miss M. Ratcliffe.

Tuberculosis Visitors : Mrs. :—C. L. Harper, K. Peters, E. Wolverson, Misses M. Meer, D. Phipps, L. W. Dunning.

School Health Nurses : *Mrs. A. O. Campbell, E. Ellis, C. Hammond, S. Player, S. R. Shropshire, L. Wardle, O. A. White. (*Have Ministry of Health temporary dispensation to undertake certain health visiting duties).

School Health Nurses Mrs. E. Gore.

(with Health Visitors Certificates) Mrs. M. George.

School Health Nurses Mrs. E. Hale.

(with special duties)

Temporary School Nurses ... Mrs. I. M. Campbell.

Mrs. E. M. Hurton.

Mrs. C. Meacham.

Mrs. B. T. Butler.

Occupational Therapist (part-time) Mrs. Lesley B. Dodds.

Municipal Midwives :

Non-Medical Supervisor ... Miss M. A. E. Taylor.

Deputy Supervisor ... Mrs. E. E. Woodley.

Midwives : Miss D. G. Abell, Mrs. I. Argyle, Mrs. N. Beagrie, Miss V. Bate, Mrs. M. Brivkalns, Mrs. J. Brett, Miss D. Brown, Mrs. E. Caskie, Miss J. Cornthwaite, Mrs. D. M. Cox, Mrs. M. Diaper, Mrs. J. Duckett, Mrs. L. M. Devlin, Mrs. F. Fardon, Miss D. Heritage, Mrs. D. C. Jewkes, Mrs. W. Kinsey, Mrs. E. McDowell, Mrs. B. Fell, Miss P. Norton, Mrs. S. O'Donnell, Miss E. Raine, Mrs. E. Reddick, Mrs. D. Reeves, Mrs. M. Rouse, Miss J. Pickett, Miss W. S. Sparkes, Mrs. A. Spragg, Mrs. E. Stevens, Miss D. G. Taylor, Mrs. I. Trasler, Miss A. Ward, Mrs. E. Wright, Miss D. L. Taylor, Mrs. E. Morley, Mrs. M. Sheehan.

Day Nurseries :

Supervisor ... Mrs. M. E. Williams.

Nursery Matrons : Miss M. Allan, Mrs. H. A. Arnatt, Miss K. G. Blackmore, Mrs. B. Bruton, Mrs. E. M. Butcher, Mrs. G. Crichton, Miss D. M. Griffiths, Mrs. I. P. Gerard, Mrs. E. T. Young.

Nursery Staffs ... Nurses—88. Others—38.

Home Nursing Service :

Superintendent	...	...	...	Miss H. B. Auckland.
Assistant Superintendents	...			Miss N. C. Lynch.
				Miss V. G. Chadwell.
				Miss K. D. McClure.
Nurses. Full-time 45 (includes 4 male). Part-time 10.				

Home Helps Service :

Organiser	...	...	...	...	Mrs. E. Marshall.
Assistants	...	...	...	...	(Mrs. M. Ball.
					Mrs. D. Buggins.
					Mrs. D. Farris.
					Mrs. P. R. M. Butler.

Home Helps 140 (including part-time workers).

Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives :

Superintendent	...	...	...	Mr. O. Norris.
Deputy Superintendent	...	...	...	Mrs. I. E. Maxwell.
Assistants	...	...	...	Mrs. M. L. Lloyd.
				Miss M. G. Bowen.
				Mrs. M. T. Darnell.
				Mrs. I. Cotterill.

Ambulance Service :

Superintendent	...	...	...	F. Warwick.
Deputy Superintendent	...	...	...	E. Taylor.
Control Sub-Officer	...	...	...	H. Petherham.
Ambulance Personnel. Males—61. Females—11.				
Telephonist—1.				

Blind Welfare :

Home Teachers	...	...	...	Miss E. Fox.
				Mrs. M. Gould.

Administrative and Clerical Staff :

(General Public Health).

Principal Administrative Assistant and Senior Authorised Officer	...	J. H. Grant.
Deputy	...	F. Ellis.

Senior Sectional Officers :

Statistics	...	T. Lord
Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis	...	G. Hubbard
Supplies and Enquiries	...	H. Jewison
Maternity and Child Welfare	...	Miss B. M. Sanders
Typing Pool	...	Miss M. E. Goddard
Clinic and Sick Room Appliances	...	Miss J. L. McGregor
M.O.H. Personal Secretary	...	Miss J. Grant
Mental Health :		
Duly Authorised Officers	...	Miss F. Holly (Admin.)
		J. A. Sturdy
		Mrs. G. Preston

Clerks :

Messrs. J. L. Green, J. P. Higgins, J. B. Hopkins, F. H. Pearson, W. Wakelin, S. Wardle, K. Williamson*, K. R. Davies, P. E. Smith*.

Misses E. Baker, E. Brown, P. E. Brown, D. Bell, M. B. Cunningham, R. A. Christlow, J. M. Gaze, M. M. Hands, J. Hoseason, V. H. Knight, M. Lancaster, F. McNab, C. M. Reed, D. M. Ryder, B. L. Smith, B. H. Smith, C. M. Taylor, P. Williams, L. A. Wheatley, W. M. Wood, M. O'Connor.

Mrs. A. Harrison, M. Lowndes, M. L. McCaig, M. Warren, W. M. Cartmell, M. M. Steele, J. Willacy, M. J. Morgan, V. Simpson, V. C. Bell.

*At present on National Service.

Storekeeper :

Central Stores, Pinley J. C. Brown.

Welfare and Pensioners Services :

I. Aged Persons' Homes (Pensioners Committee).

II. Other Welfare Provisions (Health Committee).

Pensioners Officer J. H. Ryner, F.C.C.S.,
F.I.S.W.

Deputy Pensioners Officer ... F. Charlesworth, A.I.S.W.

Senior Assistant F. M. Riley.

Welfare Officer (for handicapped
persons) T. D. Holloway.

Assistant Welfare Officers ... Mrs. G. C. Downes,
R. J. Pickering,
M. S. O. Thomas,
J. Wardle.

Senior Clerk Miss M. Pugh.

Clerk Mrs. K. Hulse.

Old People's Homes :

Charterhouse Mr. and Mrs. F. Fallon,
Superintendent and Matron.

Hawthorn Lodge Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Webster,
Superintendent and Matron.

Moat House Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Watson,
Superintendent and Matron.

Newlands House Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Boston,
Superintendent and Matron.

Stone House Miss O. Hughes, Matron.

Woodway Grange Miss B. A. Troughton, Matron.

Wyken Lodge Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Roberts,
Superintendent and Matron.

Temporary Accommodation :

Block Z.3., Baginton	} J. Veveris, Supervisor.
Fields Hostel ...	
Flats, 11, London Road	

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	19,167
Population (Census, 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	258,211
Population (estimate for mid year 1956)	...	...	...	...	...	272,600
Density of population (1951) (per acre)	...	...	...	...	...	13.4
Density of population (estimate mid 1956) (per acre)	...	...	...	...	...	14.2
Number of inhabited dwellings (1931)	42,190	(Dec., 1956)	82,089			
Average number of persons to each occupied house (mid year)	3.32					
Rateable value of City (Dec., 1956)	...	...	...	£4,032,984		
Sum represented by a penny rate (Dec., 1956)	...	...	...	£16,000		

Live Births—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>	
(Legitimate)	2,215	2,140	4,355	
(Illegitimate)	145	140	285	
	2,360	2,280	4,640	= Birth rate of 17.02 per 1,000 population.

Stillbirths	45	47	92	= Rate of 19.8 per 1,000 live births.
Deaths	1,256	998	2,254	= Death rate of 8.3 per 1,000 population.

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth
and Abortion 2 = 0.43 per 1,000 births.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	26.7
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	27.3
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	17.5

Marriage rate 16.4

*Death rate from Principal Infectious Diseases 0.007

Respiratory Death Rate 0.94

Phthisis 0.14

Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis 0.018

Death Rate from Cancer 1.7

Comparability factor (Births) 0.95

Birth Rate as adjusted by factor 16.1

Comparability Factor (Deaths) 1.37

Death Rate as adjusted by factor 11.3

*Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Measles, Diarrhoea, under 2 years, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis.

MY LORD MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report relating to the health of Coventry citizens and the work of the Health Department for the year 1956: this is compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 19/56.

The population of the city continues to extend and according to the Registrar General's mid-year estimate this stands at 272,600 (1955: 267,300), an increase of 5,300, which is a very considerable expansion in only one year, and indeed the increase has been of the order of 50,000 since the end of the last war. The density of the population in Coventry is at 14.2 per acre (1955: 13.9 per acre).

The crude death rate for the city was 8.3 per thousand population as compared with 8.7 in 1955, and the present figure therefore constitutes the lowest but one figure (1954: 8.2) ever recorded. There were 2 maternal deaths in 1956 as opposed to 5 in 1955. The infantile mortality rate was down from 27.9 per thousand born in 1955 (the previous lowest figure) to 26.7 per thousand in the year under review, which therefore constitutes the lowest figure ever for the city. On the other hand the neonatal mortality (*i.e.* deaths in the first four weeks of life) showed an increase from 17.9 to 21.1 per thousand live births.

Concerning the birth rate, this increased from 16.09 in 1955 to 17.02 in 1956, and although this is a little below the local average for the past ten years, yet it is much above the national average which is now at 15.7 per thousand population.

The number of notifiable infectious diseases stood at 3,586 in 1956—much less than in 1955 at 6,005. This considerable decrease was due in the main to the few cases of measles notified (133) as compared with those in 1955 (3,947). There was an increase in whooping cough from 755 in 1955 to 1,068 in 1956. Seventeen cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified (1955: 27) of which 8 were paralytic.

I pointed to a disturbing trend in the dysentery figures during 1955 (then at 147 cases). The present year showed a large increase to 1,334.

A further commentary in relation to dysentery appears at page 37 herein.

Food poisoning figures too were also up to 169 (1955: 156). It is most important that general practitioners should inform me of all cases of dysentery and food poisoning because this is of the greatest assistance to my departmental staff in their follow-up work.

It is pleasing to record that there were no cases of diphtheria in the city during 1956, and I would emphasise once more the paramount importance of parents seeking early immunisation for their children against this disease.

Limited quantities of poliomyelitis vaccine were distributed throughout the country by the Ministry of Health in May and June for certain age groups of children, and we were able to proceed with immunisation accordingly in Coventry

Amalgamation.

The joint usage of medical and nursing staff in both maternity and child welfare and school health work, a step taken some little time ago, to integrate more closely interests in relation to the health of children in the City, continues to develop most satisfactorily. There has been a proportionate increase amongst the existing nursing staff of those holding the health visitor's certificate, and this is the desirable trend which it was hoped would come about. The wider field of interest for doctors and nurses too is greatly appreciated by them, but, most important, the arrangement is preferred by the public who make use of the service.

An interesting report recently received from the Registrar General shows that in Coventry during 1955 there were :—

<i>Total births registered</i>			<i>Children</i>					
			<i>First</i>		<i>Second to fourth</i>		<i>Fifth or over</i>	
	<i>Born in</i>							
	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Home</i>
4,409	2,450	1,959	1,428	412	901	1,301	121	246
	55.5%	44.5%	77.6%	22.4%	41%	59%	33.3%	66.7%

It will be seen that of the larger total number of babies born in hospital much the greater percentage (and this is to be expected since there is greater anxiety with first-born children) were from initial confinements whereas for the second or further confinements mothers took greater advantage of the domiciliary midwifery services.

The opening of two new joint maternity and child welfare and school health clinics in Broad Street, Foleshill, and Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill, respectively, were happy occasions from the departmental point of view since they constituted a welcome contribution to the replacement of the many unsuitable maternity and child welfare clinic premises throughout the City, and to which end we have been pressing for a number of years.

It is hoped that central sanction will shortly be forthcoming for the erection of general practitioner suites adjoining the new Tile Hill clinic. Other variations in clinic accommodation will be noted on page 23 of the Report.

With regard to dental facilities at Gulson Road Clinic for those cases referred from the maternity and child welfare clinics, there are of course the same attendant difficulties as for the school health service, namely, gross limitation of municipal dentists through national shortages, greater attraction to other fields of dentistry and so an inability to recruit and, as a corollary, the

essential need to attend to cases of emergency only. One has commented so often in previous annual reports about the impossibility of providing conservation treatment for children and expectant mothers that the subject needs no further enlargement : it is a most disheartening picture for all concerned.

Attendances at our nine day nurseries increased from 84,188 in 1955 to 88,310 in 1956. It is of interest also to note the considerable increase in visiting by our Health Visitors in relation to accidents in the home, and this constitutes work of considerable importance (page 31).

An innovation during the year was the introduction of occupational therapy for domiciliary patients suffering from tuberculosis. This has proved to be a most successful morale builder, and is much appreciated by patients who are happy in achieving something useful (see page 55).

The work of the Mental Health Service has continued steadily, and it will be noted that 105 cases were removed from the register as people who, after long supervision at home, were considered no longer, statutorily, to be in need of it.

The Ambulance Service continues to give the same high standard of service to the public, but there is need, in the interests of enhanced efficiency, for radio telecommunication equipment to be fitted to some of our vehicles still without it.

Because of greater demand upon our Mobile Meals Service, it seems clear that there is now need to consider an extension to this most useful provision.

The Health Committee have considered from time to time the advisability of providing a Home for Handicapped Persons in Coventry—as also a Mother and Baby Home—and it is probable that these will continue to be much in mind when next year's capital projects are due for discussion.

For a number of years I have laid particular stress upon the need for greatly improved health educational facilities to cover the varied needs of the Health Department because the subject is becoming of greater significance as the years go by, and is much more acceptable to the public at large. Further comments appear at page 57 herein. The subject of lung cancer and its considerable relationship in part at least to tobacco smoking is one which I have commented upon in previous reports and a matter which will require careful attention in the immediate future.

A feature of the Home Help Service during the year has been the introduction of a two weeks' course of training for prospective entrants who are invariably much encouraged by this initiation into their work. It is of interest also to note that with a numerically smaller staff of Home Helps a greater number of visits was achieved in 1956, largely due to the scheme of decentralisation brought about in 1955. This is not to say, however, that all those visited received an adequate number of Home Help hours, but rather that they received what assistance was available. There is urgent need for an

enhanced establishment of Home Helps to cope with the greatly increased number and variety of problems which are constantly being presented to the Department for attention.

During the year the Health Committee decided to dispense with Block Z.3. at Baginton Fields Hostel, which was used for temporary Part III National Assistance Act accommodational purposes; this building was transferred to the use of the Education Committee. There remain six flats only at the London Road Institution for the purpose of providing urgent temporary accommodation as and when this is deemed necessary.

The Department had recourse to the use of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act during the year for the removal of two elderly people to Old People's Homes, and it is pleasing to record that since entry neither have had any desire to leave.

The work in relation to the blind people of the City progresses, and the need for the appointment of a third Home Teacher of the Blind—a matter which the Health Committee had in mind, is likely to be an accomplished fact in 1957. Other types of handicapped persons have received much help during the year, as will be noticed from the information provided at page 81.

There continues to be a big demand from elderly people in the City for chiropody services, and there is much need to extend this facility as and when necessary central permission is forthcoming for the Local Authority to do so.

The Pensioners Committee have much cause for satisfaction in the opening of the newly constructed Wyken Lodge to accommodate 42 elderly persons. This also gave the opportunity to close St. Paul's Home, which, although having provided necessary accommodation for a number of years, was not constructionally very suitable for the requirements of elderly people. At much the same time Woodway Grange was converted from use as a men's to that of a women's Home.

A matter of prime importance to the future work of the Health Department, as indeed to that of the City Engineer's and Water Manager's Departments respectively, was the decision of the City Council on the 2nd October, 1956, to appoint a Public Analyst for the City. I reported fully to the Health Committee upon the need for such an appointment on 3rd March, 1955, and the future potentialities of the post were indicated at that time: thereafter a detailed report and assessment was prepared by the Town Clerk's Department in December, 1955. A short-list of candidates was selected for the post on the 31st December, 1956. (N.B. The new City Analyst, Mr. W. M. Lewis, was appointed to his post on the 7th January, 1957).

A shortage of public health inspectors continues at a time when there is much work of urgency to undertake, and most particularly when the extensive programme of slum clearance is pending and the extension of the smokeless area in the City (constituted in March, 1951) has for long been contemplated.

On the 3rd December, 1956, the following resolution was passed by the Health Committee, and was subsequently endorsed by the City Council on the 8th January, 1957:—

“RESOLVED that subject to the concurrence of the Establishment and General Administration Committee, the Public Health Inspectorate be made a separate Department with the Chief Public Health Inspector in charge, directly responsible to the Health Committee for all the duties now performed by the Inspectorate, it being understood that in those matters in respect of which the Medical Officer of Health has statutory obligations, the proposed new Department shall give him whatever co-operation shall be required”.

Alone of all Health Departments throughout the country, therefore, the year 1956 would appear to have witnessed the end of an era for Coventry Health Department because, seemingly, it was the last year in which all of those health services which are the responsibility of this local authority would be co-ordinated under a single head of department.

From the early days of public health, medical officers of health have been required to study and supervise factors affecting the health of the populations of their areas. In the case of a district medical officer of health, his duty has been defined in Article 17 (i) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1936, in the following terms:—

“17. A Medical Officer of Health in respect of the district for which he is appointed shall—(i) inform himself as far as practicable respecting *all* matters affecting or likely to affect the public health in the district and be prepared to advise the local authority on any such matter”.

Although this Article does not specifically refer to a County Borough, the work of the medical officer of health to such an authority is, as shown by the reports and returns which he has to submit to the Ministry of Health, basically similar though wider in scope. It is important, therefore, that the medical officer of health of a County Borough should be in a position to assess all those factors which influence the health of the people in his area.

As medical officer of health I much regret that I was afforded only precipitate and very cursory knowledge of an acutely impending separation and had no real opportunity to report upon the advisability or otherwise of a contemplated measure which was so vitally to affect my department.

It will, however, be my endeavour in the future, as in the past, to have the content of Article 17 (i) always in mind, and to carry out my duties under the now unusual circumstances to the best of my ability in the interests of the public.

There was considerable strain placed upon the local Public Health Laboratory Service in 1956, and most particularly, one would feel, at the time of the extensive dysentery outbreak. It is

a pleasant duty, therefore, to thank Dr. Ewart Jones and his able Deputy, Dr. Pauline Poole, together with their technical staff, for the considerable assistance and co-operation given to me and my appropriate departmental staff.

On Thursday, 19th July, the Royal Society of Health held a Sessional Meeting in St. Mary's Hall, Coventry. It was pleasing to arrange for two members of my department to present papers on important aspects of public health, the one by Dr. J. Ardley entitled "Topical Aspects of Poliomyelitis" and the other by Mr. D. C. Norcliffe entitled "The Role of the Public Health Inspector in the Campaign for Clean Air". Both papers were well received by a large and attentive audience and most interesting discussions were stimulated.

I would also express my grateful thanks to municipal colleagues and their staffs for helpful co-operation given to my officers and myself whenever this was needed.

It is always a pleasure and privilege to acknowledge the able support most willingly given to me by all members of my departmental staffs, to whom I am much indebted.

Finally, I should like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Health and Pensioners Committees respectively for the support which they have given to members of my staff and me during the year.

I am, my Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

The. Clayton.

Health Department,
Coventry.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated population for mid-1956 was 272,600 which was an increase from the 1955 mid-year figure of 267,300. The generally upward trend of the city's population for the past twenty years is shown in the table of vital statistics on page 149.

Birth Rate.

The births registered as Coventry births during the year numbered 4,640 giving a birth rate of 17.02 per 1,000 population. These figures compare with 4,300 births in 1955 and a birth rate of 16.09 for the same year. Further details relating to births occurring within the city are given elsewhere under the heading of "Mid-wifery".

The comparable figure for England and Wales was 15.7 per 1,000 population.

General Death Rate.

The number of deaths recorded as belonging to the city during the year was 2,254, which gives a crude death rate of 8.3 per 1,000 population. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 11.7. The major causes of death during the year under review continue to be heart disease and other vascular conditions; cancer; respiratory conditions and tuberculosis. An analysis of the various causes of death is given in the appropriate table on page 142. It may be noted that 58.2 per cent. of the total deaths registered occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1956 was 124, giving an infant mortality rate of 26.7 per 1,000 live births:

The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales was 23.8 per 1,000 births.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age during 1956 was 98, giving a mortality rate of 21.1 per 1,000 live births. The comparable neo-natal mortality rate for 1955 was 17.9 per 1,000 births.

Marriage Rate.

The number of marriages solemnised in the city during the year was 2,248, giving a marriage rate (*i.e.*, number of persons married) of 16.4 per 1,000 population. (This compares with 16.2 per 1,000 population for the preceding year.)

Maternal Mortality.

The maternal mortality rate for the city was 0.42 per 1,000 total births and this compares with 1.16 for the preceding year. The comparative figure for England and Wales was 0.56.

Infectious Diseases.

The following notifications in respect of infectious diseases were received in the department during 1956, and it should be noted that the comparative figures in brackets are those for 1955 and for the last complete pre-war year 1938 in that order. In the last mentioned year measles and whooping cough were not notifiable.

Diphtheria—(6 : 212); scarlet fever 182 (295 : 406); measles 133 (3,947); whooping cough 1,068 (755); acute primary pneumonia 133 (102 : 290); puerperal pyrexia 13 (12 : 54); meningitis 4 (6 : 36); acute anterior poliomyelitis (paralytic) 8 (10 : 2); acute anterior poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) 9 (17 : —); ophthalmia neonatorum 6 (0 : 16); erysipelas 46 (36 : 60); malaria—(1 : —); dysentery 1,334 (147 : 15); acute influenzal pneumonia 15 (33 : 56); acute encephalitis —(1 : —); food poisoning 169 (156 : —); paratyphoid fever 8 (6 : —).

The total incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was less than that during 1955 (i.e., 3,586 : 6,005).

Concerning diphtheria, the following figures continue to tell their story, and, incidentally, that concerned with the campaign of immunisation against diphtheria in Coventry :—

1945—	146 cases (5 deaths—none immunised)
1946—	115 cases (4 deaths—none immunised)
1947—	53 cases (2 deaths—none immunised)
1948—	12 cases (no deaths)
1949—	12 cases (2 deaths—none immunised)
1950—	7 cases (2 deaths—none immunised)
1951—	4 cases (no deaths)
1952—	2 cases (no deaths)
1953—	0 cases (no deaths)
1954—	0 cases (no deaths)
1955—	6 cases (1 death)—none of the six immunised
1956—	0 cases (no deaths)

The figures relating to acute primary pneumonia, dysentery, whooping cough, erysipelas, food poisoning and paratyphoid fever show an increase, and diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, acute influenzal pneumonia, poliomyelitis and meningitis a decrease for the year.

Incidence of Poliomyelitis in the City during 1956.

1953 was the year of greatest incidence for this disease in Coventry when 164 cases were confirmed. In 1955 there were 27 cases but there has been a decrease to 17 cases in 1956.

Scabies.

The scabies and cleansing unit continued to function at the Central Welfare Centre; this is open daily for women and children from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and for men four evenings per week.

The work of the unit was as follows :—

	No. of patients	No. of treatments
Scabies		
Male adults	8	16
Females Adults	11	22
School Children	25	50
Children under 5 years	3	6
Total	47	94

Cleansing.

Male	12
Female	—

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 418 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 51 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified or re-notified in the city (1955—445 and 36).

The policy of sending Coventry patients to other hospitals and sanatoria in addition to Hertford Hill has eliminated the waiting list to all intents and purposes. The regular visiting by a near relative of individual patients in these distant sanatoria is financially assisted by the department and this service has received numerous appreciative letters.

For further details of tuberculosis, note comments under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, page 53.

REPORT OF WORK OF MASS RADIOGRAPHY IN COVENTRY

Year ended 31st December, 1956

I am indebted to Dr. A. Gordon Evans, Medical Director of Mass Radiography, Coventry, for the following information and for his helpful co-operation throughout the year :—

“24,500 Coventry residents were X-rayed during the year, an increase of some 7,000 over the 1955 figures. 137 (0.56%) newly discovered tuberculous conditions and 62 (0.25%) non-tuberculous conditions were referred to the Chest Clinic or Hospital for further

investigation. 69 (0.28%) of the tuberculous cases have since been notified. This is again a smaller percentage than last year and considerably less than 1954, when the percentage of notified cases of the total number X-rayed was 0.46%. The 62 non-tuberculous conditions included 10 cases of carcinoma of the lung (9 male and 1 female). These conditions are almost invariably discovered in the older age groups, from the age of 45 years upwards. The number of men X-rayed during the year in this age group was 4,700—giving an incidence of 0.19% of carcinoma of the lung.

The figure of 24,500 Coventry residents X-rayed has again been obtained from the General Register Office; the other information from our own records and the Coventry Chest Clinic.

The following table gives the break-down in main group headings of the total number X-rayed and shows the number of tuberculous and non-tuberculous conditions referred for further investigation in each group:—

GROUP.	Number X-rayed.	Tuberculous cases referred to Chest Clinic.				Non-tuberculous cases referred to Chest Clinic or Hospital.	
		Number referred.	% of total X-rayed.	Number notified (New cases)	% of total X-rayed.	Number referred.	% of total X-rayed.
1. Organised Surveys (Industry, Shops and Offices, etc.)	13,510	87	0.64	36	0.27	27	0.20
2. General Public ...	5,140	25	0.49	14	0.27	10	0.19
3. School Children...	3,720	4	0.11	4	0.11	4	0.11
4. Doctors' Patients and Contacts ...	1,300	16	1.23	10	0.77	19	1.46
5. Ante-natal Patients	830	5	0.60	5	0.60	2	0.24
TOTALS ...	24,500	137	0.56	69	0.28	62	0.25

- GROUP I: (Organised Surveys). There has again been a decrease in the percentage of notified cases.
- GROUP II: (General Public). It is interesting to note that the percentage of notified cases in this group is the same as for Group I.
- GROUP III: (School Children). Here there has been a considerable fall in the percentage of notified cases, (both 1954 and 1955 were 0.32%).
- GROUP IV: (Doctors' Patients and Contacts). Again a decrease in the percentage of notified cases. This suggests that the pool of unsuspected cases of tuberculosis is gradually being discovered.
- GROUP V: (Ante-natal Patients). This is the only group which has an increase in the incidence of tuberculosis on the 1955 findings. It does underline the remark which I made last year on the importance of a routine chest X-ray for all ante-natal patients''.

Further points brought out by Dr. Evans include the following :—

“Apart from returning to base once monthly for a day, the unit is now completely mobile, and during the summer months in particular, a good deal of travelling is involved” (i.e. in County areas also).

Occasional visits are also made to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital to assist in clearing up any backlog of cases there.

Generally speaking, Dr. Evans points out that in his area of operation, which includes Coventry, “the incidence of significant tuberculosis amongst these cases is still high, being nearly 7 per 1,000. This, however, is considerably lower than it was two years ago, when the figure was over 10 per 1,000.”

The surveys at base, once per month, include national service recruits, ante-natal cases, food handlers, teaching candidates, and other small miscellaneous groups.

With regard to Coventry factories, Dr. Evans reports as follows :—

“The incidence in Coventry factories which have been re-visited varies considerably. In two factories, each with approximately 2,000 employees, the incidence in the first one was found to be .5 per 1,000, and in the second the incidence was 3.73 per 1,000. As the ‘contracting-out’ method is used in all factories in Coventry, the response is approximately 85 per cent. in most cases. Owing to turnover in labour, it would appear that the large factories are still well worth visiting on a three-yearly basis.”

VENEREAL DISEASES

Statistics of new cases seen at the clinic during 1956 show a slight decrease on those for 1955 (*i.e.*, 665 : 708). It will be recalled that the peak year of 1946 gave a figure of 1,470. It is also of interest to record that of the 665 new cases seen, no less than 529 were later proved to be non-venereal.

Further commentary is given on page 55 under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

In the following pages I have dealt with the services which come within the terms of the National Health Service Act, in the following order :—

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Section 21. | Health Centres. |
| „ 22. | Care of Mothers and Young Children. |
| „ 23. | Midwifery. |
| „ 24. | Health Visitors. |
| „ 25. | Home Nursing. |
| „ 26. | Vaccination and Immunisation. |
| „ 27. | Ambulance Service. |
| „ 28. | Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care. |
| „ 29. | Domestic Help. |
| „ 51. | Mental Health. |

HEALTH CENTRES

Section 21

In accordance with Section 21 of the National Health Service Act, it shall be the duty of every Local Health Authority to provide and maintain to the satisfaction of the Minister premises which shall be available for all or any of the following purposes :—

- (a) For the provision of general medical services, under Part IV of this Act by medical practitioners.
- (b) For the provision of general dental services under Part IV of this Act by dental practitioners.
- (c) For the provision of pharmaceutical services under Part IV of this Act by registered pharmacists.
- (d) For the provision or organisation of any of the services which the Local Health Authority are required or empowered to provide.
- (e) For the provision of the services of specialists or other services provided for out-patients under Part III of this Act.
- (f) For the exercise of the powers conferred on the Local Health Authority by Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, or Section 298 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, for the publication of information on questions related to health or disease and for the delivery of lectures and for the display of pictures or cinematograph films in which questions are dealt with.

Negotiations have continued for a considerable time between the Ministry of Health, general practitioners, and the local authority in an attempt to secure common cause for the building of general practitioner suites adjoining the recently erected maternity and child welfare and school health clinic at Tile Hill. So far these efforts have proved abortive but the matter continues to be pressed and it is hoped that there will be a satisfactory outcome to the problem in the fairly near future.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**Section 22****Child Welfare Clinics.**

There were at the end of 1956 under the control of the department :—

- 22 infant welfare centres with 25 weekly sessions.
- 8 ante-natal clinics with 9 weekly sessions.
- 1 post-natal clinic with 1 weekly session.
- 7 toddlers and 1 special clinics.

The 22 welfare centres at present in use are as follows :—

Welfare Centre.	Type of Premises.	Sessions					Infant Welfare.	Ante-Natal.	Post-Natal.	Toddlers.	Women's Special.	B.C.G.	Paediatric.	Ultra-Violet Light.
		Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Gen. Ses.	Gen. Ses.				Gen. Ses.		Gen. Ses.
Gulson Road	Permanent Clinic	1	1	1	1	1	1 2	1 2	1	1	1	1 2	1	1 2
Whitley	Rented Church Hall	—	1	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad Street	Permanent Clinic	1	1	1	1	—	1 2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1 2
Bell Green	Rented Hall.	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pinley	Community Centre	—	1	—	—	—	1 1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canley	Rented Hall.	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheylesmore	Community Centre	—	—	1	—	—	1 1	1 1	—	1	—	—	—	1 2
Fletchamstead	Rented ex-hostel	1	1	1	—	—	1 1	1 1	—	1	—	—	—	1 2
Green Lane	„ ex-hostel	1	1	1	—	—	1 1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holyhead Road	Church Hall	—	—	—	1	1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Links Road	Church Hall	—	—	—	—	1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Windmill Road	(Dance) Hall Rented	—	—	1	—	1	1 2	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poole Road	Rented Church Hall	—	1	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke Heath	„ School Clinic	—	—	1	1	1	1 1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	1 2
Stratford Street	Part of Day Nursery	—	1	—	—	1	1 1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holbrooks	School Clinic	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Wyken	Rented Church Hall	1	1	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whoberley	„ ex-hostel	—	—	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tile Hill	„ Church Hall	1	—	1	—	1	1 1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Willenhall	„ ex-hostel	—	1	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1 2
Earlsdon	Permanent Clinic	—	—	—	1	—	1 1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Copsewood	Rented Flats (2)	1	—	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
+Binley	„ Church Hall	—	—	—	—	1	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Miners' Institute	1	—	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...		22	25	8	9	1	7	1	1	2	1	6	12	

There are six U.V.L. Clinics, with 12 weekly sessions held during Winter months. (October to March).

†Ceased to be used. December, 1956.

The new joint maternity and child welfare and school health clinic at Broad Street was officially opened by the then Lord Mayor (Alderman T. H. Dewis) on 1st March, 1956. The clinic was operating to some extent from the 2nd January, 1956, and its use has steadily expanded. Conditional upon the opening of this clinic was the closure of the two maternity and child welfare clinics which had been held for many years in the Methodist Church Hall, Broad Street, and in the Methodist Church Hall, Lockhurst Lane, respectively. These clinics have served a most essential requirement during the years but are no longer suitable under present conditions. There is little doubt that all who have transferred to the new Broad Street Clinic—whether they be mothers seeking advice or departmental staff—will greatly appreciate the modern amenities.

This opportunity is taken to thank all those (voluntary workers or departmental staff) who have helped in any way at the old centres for their valuable work there. Thanks are also due to the respective church hall authorities for the use of the rooms rented to us.

The newly erected maternity and child welfare and school health clinic at Tile Hill also came into use on 21st August, 1956, and was officially opened by the then Lord Mayor (Alderman W. I. Thomson) on 15th March, 1957. The amenities provided at this joint clinic are much needed in this new and already highly developed peripheral area of the city. The maternity and child welfare provisions have also replaced those previously available at the Willow Grove Church Hall.

Here again thanks are expressed to all voluntary or municipal staffs for the valuable services which they have rendered in the past at the older centre.

Both the Broad Street and Tile Hill Health Clinics were to the design of the City Architect, whilst the builder in both cases was J. G. Gray, Ltd.

On 6th April an infant welfare centre was commenced in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Binley Road, this partly replacing for the Stoke side of Binley the clinic previously held at the Binley Colliery Club and Institute.

On 1st October, 1956, an infant welfare centre was also opened on the new housing estate at Willenhall in two flats kindly rented to us as a temporary measure by the Housing Committee and adapted for clinic purposes. In so doing it was found necessary to close down the centre previously held at the Binley Club and Institute. The new centre is sited about midway between the Binley Colliery village and the London Road end of Willenhall.

The infant welfare centre formerly conducted at the Wheelwright Lane Chapel Hall on the extreme northern periphery of the city was closed on 12th June, and a replacement clinic was opened at the more generally accessible Community Centre, Hen Lane.

Care of Premature Infants.

Routine arrangements continue to operate in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 20/44 to provide for :

The notification of all infants $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and under at birth.

The availability of four premature baby sets, consisting of treasure cot filled with pockets for hot water bottles; rubber hot water bottles; mackintosh covered flock pillows; Gamgee suits and Belcroy feeders. These sets have been in use 19 times during the year.

Each midwife keeps in reserve two Gamgee baby suits and a maternity outfit for emergency cases.

Oxygen supplies are available at the Health Department and at the Ambulance Station also, for the use of any doctor or midwife.

Special carry cots are available at the Ambulance Station for the transport of premature babies to hospital when necessary.

The services of a consultant pædiatrician are available on request by medical practitioners in the city.

The following are statistics of premature births occurring within the city during 1956 :—

- *1. The number of live premature babies notified in the city was 268.
2. Of the above 104 were born at home, 156 in Gulson Hospital and 8 in nursing homes.
3. Of those born at home (104), 25 were transferred to hospital within 24 hours; of the 79 remaining in their own homes, 6 died in the first 24 hours and 72 were alive at the expiration of one month.
4. Of those born in hospital (156), 15 died in the first 24 hours and 126 were alive at the expiration of one month.
5. Of those born in nursing homes (8), none died in the first 24 hours and 8 were alive at the expiration of one month.

*The number of premature babies born in Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Keresley, was 114. These are not included in the figure 268 shown above, as the hospital is situate in the county area.

Dental Care.

The Senior School Dentist (Mr. M. Raeside) advises me that the following work (see table below) was accomplished during 1956 in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

(a) Numbers provided with dental care.

	Examined	Needing treatment		Treated	Made dentally fit as far as possible
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	18	15		15	Dental sepsis eradicated but no dentures provided
Children under five	204	195		195	

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided.

	Extrac-tions	Anæsthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling and gum treatment	Silver Nitrate treatment	Dressings	Radio-graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	15	—	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
Children under five	421	—	142	3	—	4	—	—	—	—

There has been no improvement in the recruitment position so far as the municipality is concerned, and, as usual, our three available dentists are fully occupied with acutely affected children and matters of urgency rather than with the conservative type of work for which the dental service was primarily constituted.

Supply of Welfare Foods.

Dried milks from a selected list and other suitable preparations are stocked at the infant welfare centres, either for sale, or if the need is proved, for free issue.

During the year sales to the value of £10,896 13s. 6d. were made at the various centres; this compares with £9,801 10s. 7d. in 1955 and £10,803 12s. 5d. in 1954.

The arrangements outlined last year for the supply of national dried milk, orange juice and cod liver oil from a shop fitted out for the purpose in the basement of the new Council Offices functioned satisfactorily throughout the year.

The Welfare Foods Amendment Order, 1956 (No. 1130) came into force on 1st September, 1956, but as national dried milk was not used in our day nurseries the only effect of the order was to reduce the amount of grant payable by the Ministries. The previous provision of one-third of a pint of fresh milk for each morning and each afternoon session for each child at the day nurseries was reduced to one-third of a pint per day.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

Standardised maternity outfits are available from the Health Department for the needs of expectant mothers who are to be confined at home. A recommendation signed by the midwife or doctor is required before issue.

In 1956 the number of such outfits issued was 2,666. Since 5th July, 1948, no charge has been made for these. The outfits have been modified to meet the requirements of mothers and the attendant general practitioners.

Nursery Provision.

Day Nurseries.

The nine day nurseries in the city area continued to function as previously and the following relevant statistics indicate the demand made upon the service during the year.

The scheme for training nursery nurses continues and during the year 11 nurses have received the N.N.E.B. certificates.

The amended standard of accommodation gives the number of places as 435. Attendances during the year have increased from 84,188 to 88,310, a percentage of 4.9; each child made an average of 203 attendances on the 244 days that the nurseries opened.

DAY NURSERY	Number of Places	ATTENDANCES		Total Attendances
		Age 0 to 2 years	Age 2 to 5 years	
Papenham Green	50	3,680	6,250	9,930
Foleshill	70	7,415	7,498	14,913
Monks Park	50	4,444	6,561	11,005
Poole Road	40	2,505	4,979	7,484
Queen Philippa	54	5,973	5,125	11,098
Stoke Green	55	3,967	6,765	10,732
Whoberley	40	1,989	6,018	8,007
Windmill Road	36	1,795	4,398	6,193
Wyken	40	3,054	5,894	8,948
Total	435	34,822	53,488	88,310

Increased attendances during the year (88,310 against 84,188 in 1955) together with a reasonably good average attendance of 83 per cent. has enabled a stabilisation of the costs of provisions. A periodical comparative costing statement has been provided for the day nursery matrons and certain previous difficulties have been resolved to mutual advantage.

CARE OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Mother and Baby Home.

The Health Committee have the provision of such a Home in mind and indeed this was envisaged in their schemes approved under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The provision of other more urgent departmental projects have perforce been given priority up to the moment but it is hoped that a Mother and Baby Home may be forthcoming fairly soon.

Our agency arrangements with St. Faith's Shelter continue for the reception of such unmarried mothers and their babies whose care and maintenance has become the responsibility of the local health authority. During 1956 there were 57 mothers and 41 babies accommodated through this Shelter on our behalf.

In addition, the department has accepted responsibility for the maintenance of 19 mothers and their expected children in other homes (*e.g.* London, Birmingham, etc.)

MIDWIFERY

Section 23

The City Council is the local supervising authority under the Midwives' Acts, and during the year 1956 received notice of intention to practise midwifery from the following :—

Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Midwives employed in nursing homes	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Independent domiciliary midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hospital midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

There are nine houses and three flats provided by the Council for municipal midwives, and telephones are installed in all midwives' houses.

The liaison between general practitioners and municipal midwives continues to be generally very satisfactory.

The Council have also approved a loan scheme so that midwives are able to purchase cars and repay the Council over a period of four years.

A summary of statistics is given below :—

	1956.	1955.
No. of births attended :		
Doctor not present	1928	1727
Doctor present	195	189
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2123	1916
No. of visits paid :—		
(a) Ante-natal	14230	12218
(b) Nursing	46104	41463
(c) Special visits	1030	874
(d) Visits to patients returned from hospital	5489	5631
(e) No. of patients returned from hospital for nursing at home before the 14th day	1664	1747
No. of requests for medical aid	525	457
No. of cases transferred to hospitals	258	229
No. of cases in which gas and air analgesia was used	1691	1528
No. of cases in which Trilene was used	18	—
No. of abortions	26	26
No. of advisory attendances made at :		
(a) Ante-natal clinics	665	917
(b) Relaxation clinics	220	—
(c) Post-natal clinics	117	143
No. of gas and air machines in use in department	40	41
No. of Tecota Mark 6 machines for Trichloroethylene in use in department	2	—
No. of municipal midwives trained to use these machines	38	38

Two gas and air machines in the department have been replaced by 2 Trichloroethylene machines.

The independent midwives attended 18 confinements during the year; they administered gas and air analgesia in 13 cases and sent for medical aid in 2 cases.

The number of births occurring in private nursing homes was 190; and there were 189 gas-air analgesia administrations and no medical aid was required.

HEALTH VISITING

Section 24

The integration of the nursing services in the work of health visiting and of school health was completed during the year 1955 following the opening of the new Council Offices and the centralisation there of all health services: the new arrangement has been operating most successfully. Staff available was as follows—1 Superintendent Health Visitor; 2 Deputy Superintendent Health Visitors (one for maternity and child welfare and general health visiting work, the other for school health work); 31 full-time and 1 part-time health visitors; 15 health nurses (7 of whom were granted temporary dispensation by the Ministry of Health to undertake certain health visiting duties); and 6 full-time tuberculosis health visitors.

A further year of experience in the integration of the health visiting and school nursing staff has served to confirm the desirability of this form of organisation. While there are difficulties, owing to the limited types of work undertaken by those without the Health Visitor's Certificate, there has been an increase in the proportion of fully qualified health visitors, some recruited from former school nurses who have taken the training course. It does seem that there will be a place for some less qualified staff in an integrated service, and in time it is to be hoped that the proportions can be worked out to suit the service and not according to the availability of qualified health visitors. There has been a definite tendency to more stability in the staff, as well as an actual increase, which would appear to show that the wider scope of the work is proving more satisfying.

It is expected that adjustments in the original areas allotted will need to be made as already populations are changing, and the establishment of large comprehensive schools in certain districts means that the senior children from one health visitor's area may well attend school in another. But goodwill and flexibility on the part of the staff have helped to overcome any unforeseen difficulties.

Health Visiting: Tabulation of Work.

	1956		1955
Ante-natal cases	683		614
Notified births	4,862		4,626
Revisits to notified births	15,052		11,463
„ „ Children aged 1—2 years 9,258		6,796	
„ „ „ „ 2—5 „ 18,338		16,264	
	27,596	—	23,060
Infant death enquiries	116		101
Stillbirth enquiries	67		83

Visits to ophthalmia cases	—		3
„ „ tuberculosis cases	7,203		2,657
„ „ non-pulmonary tuberculosis cases	522		297
„ „ B.C.G. cases by T.B. visitors	68		522
„ „ other infectious diseases ...	1,543		161
„ „ special cases	5,248		2,900
„ „ homes no reply	11,015		10,269
„ „ contacts of poliomyelitis ...	6		1
„ „ „ „ cerebro-spinal fever	—		2
B.C.G. visits for Medical Research Council	774		1,222
Swabs taken of diphtheria contacts ...	—		7
Sessions at Welfare Centres	4,373		5,358

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Cases investigated	...	...	...	164
Cases treated at hospital	...	...	...	51
Cases treated by Out-Patients' Department	...	...	...	48
Cases treated by own doctor	...	...	...	28
Cases treated at home	...	...	...	35
Cases treated by chemist	...	...	...	2

Nature of Accidents.

Burns and scalds	...	...	...	51
Cuts and bruises	...	...	...	30
Head injuries	...	...	...	34
Shock	...	...	...	1
Fractures	...	...	...	13
Poisoning	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	19

One hundred and sixty-four investigations were made during 1956, and these showed an increase in all but one of the above headings. Burns and scalds show an unfortunate predominance amongst the accidents and there has been an increase in the number of miscellaneous accidents such as the swallowing of foreign bodies—drawing pins, rings, keys, pins, and in two cases the ends of thermometers have been bitten off and swallowed.

Several cases of poisoning from Fersolate tablets have been dealt with in hospital. Phenobarbitone is still far too accessible in some households, and one case of poisoning occurred when a child drank hair bleach. In another case a father, during the night, gave his child methylated spirits instead of gripe water. There was one case of coal gas poisoning—fortunately the child recovered, but he had been a victim of his father's over-anxiety on account of ill health.

One case of shock was investigated, when a child fell downstairs but received no apparent physical injury.

In two cases accidents threatened when young boys jumped deliberately from bedroom windows, having been dared to do so by other children, but both boys escaped injury.

Three accidents were caused by inadequate harness in prams, where children have leaned over and fallen out. Fortunately in all three recorded cases the children were indoors.

Among the head injuries was one fractured skull, caused by a child falling backwards off the doorstep, and a case of concussion was caused by a father dropping his eighteen months old child whilst playing with him.

Of the two deaths recorded, one was caused by an overdose of Fersolate tablets, and the other followed extensive burns after the child's nightdress had caught fire.

Investigations reveal that there has been some degree of increased care on the part of parents, but not nearly as much as is necessary. It is still important that parents should exercise care in locking up or storing on inaccessible shelves all poisonous tablets and fluids.

HOME NURSING

Section 25

The staff engaged in the Home Nursing Service at 31st December, 1956, was as follows :—

- 1 Superintendent
- 3 Assistant Superintendents
- 45 Full-time nurses (including 4 male nurses)
- 10 Part-time nurses
- 1 Clerk-telephonist.

The staffing of the service during 1956 remained fairly satisfactory and there were some ten general trained nurses who took their Queen's Certificate from our Training Home: all passed. This training scheme has been of the greatest value throughout the years in maintaining our staff at a reasonable level even though we have experienced occasional but transitory shortages. We have been fortunate in this respect for there are areas in various parts of the country which have experienced more permanent staffing shortages and difficulty in meeting their home nursing commitments.

There was an increase in the year of 3,664 visits (1955—218,952 : 1956—222,616), and this threw considerable strain upon the service. However, because we had certain adaptations carried out at the garage at 8, Park Road we were able to obtain and accommodate two additional cars. Moreover, a woman driver was appointed on an eight hour basis (*i.e.*, 8 a.m.—12 noon and 3 p.m.—7 p.m.). Although hard pressed at times this latter arrangement enabled the nursing staff the more readily to meet the demands, while at the same time the use—and therefore the cost—of hired transport was reduced to a minimum.

Having been without a gardener/handyman for two years we were fortunately able to make such an appointment during the year, and this has eased many difficulties. We were also able to appoint a third Assistant Superintendent during the year, and this enabled a more equitable allocation of duties and a more suitable arrangement for tutorial work: which was obviously to the benefit of the student nurses and of the nursing work generally.

Statistics for Year ended 31st December, 1956.

	1956.	1955.
Total number of cases attended	6,533	6,927
Number of new cases attended	5,682	6,138
Number of visits made, including night visits	222,616	218,952
Number of operations attended	55	42
New cases referred for treatment by :—		
Private doctors	5,290	5,767
Health Department	56	87
Hospitals	336	284
	<hr/> 5,682	<hr/> 6,138

Results of treatment were as follows :—

Convalescent	3,101	3,602
Sent to hospital	701	677
Relieved	1,229	1,124
Died	603	673
Remaining under care	899	851
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,533	6,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The winter of 1956 was milder than usual, and this was reflected in a somewhat lighter demand from older people. However, there was an increase in the total number of visits made, these being largely due to the greater number of patients discharged from hospital—a situation which must be accepted in Coventry for the time being because of the continuing shortages in general hospital beds locally and the heavy demands made upon those available.

During the year the number of old age pensioners receiving nursing attention was 1,762 as compared with 2,531 and 1,757 respectively in the preceding years. Such attention to the aged by our nursing service is of obvious benefit to the hospitals, since it tends to reduce the demand on much needed hospital beds : moreover, the arrangement is conducive to a happier state of mind for elderly people, who, on the whole, prefer to stay within the confines of their own homes when possible.

There was a slight increase in the injection therapy work during the year, when 100,996 injections were given (100,862 in 1955).

An analysis of the work carried out during the year is given in the following table :—

No. of patients on the books at 1st January ...	851
No. of new patients during the year	5,682
No. of patients on the books at 31st December ...	899
No. of patients nursed during the year	6,533
No. of visits paid	222,616
	<hr/>
	1956. 1955.
<i>Reason for visit.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>
Medical	2,647 2,212
Surgical	1,398 1,354
Infectious Diseases	18 25
Tuberculosis	219 270
Maternal Complications	146 124
Others	— —
Nursing and attendance on old age pensioners	1,762 2,531
„ „ „ „ children under 5	343 411
	<hr/>
	6,533 6,927
	<hr/>

Injections given in 1956.

Insulin 45,983; penicillin 24,517; streptomycin 9,078; neptal 5,533; mersalyl 4,839; cytamin 2,728; anahaemin 2,007; adrenalin 264; phenobarbitone 44; cortisone 3; morphia 3,764; vit. B 313; paraldehyde 88; largactil 81; pethidine 365; prostigmin 203, vit. C 12; A.C.T.H. 68; inferon 504; sodium gardinal 3, omnopon 92; pitocin 3; pituitrin 1; progestin 290; myocardin 31; calcium 21; A.T.S. 9; testosterone 114; thiomerin 31; cardophlyn 7. Total 100,996.

In addition to these figures, the Superintendent or her Assistants made 3,004 supervisory visits.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Section 26

Certain vaccines for immunisation procedures are available to general practitioners through the Health Department against such diseases as diphtheria, smallpox, whooping cough, and, more latterly (in limited quantities) against poliomyelitis.

I found it necessary last year to make particular mention of a death caused by diphtheria, and which should not have happened had the person been previously immunised: there were in 1955 also a further 5 notified cases of diphtheria, all in unimmunised persons.

This year I am pleased to record that there have been no notifications of persons suffering from diphtheria, but I would continue to stress most strongly that parents would be well advised not to hesitate in having their children protected by immunisation—a simple procedure and causing a minimum of discomfort only. This is surely a small enough price to pay for achieving safety from this dangerous disease.

In addition to the above facilities the health department ensures arrangements upon request whereby travellers to foreign countries may be immunised according to International Regulations against such diseases as typhoid, cholera and yellow fever.

Vaccination.

Some 2,015 persons were vaccinated for the first time during the year. This is an increase of 225 over the previous year and 1,406 more than in 1948, the last year of compulsory vaccination, when 609 were vaccinated. This gives an approximate increase of 230% in the vaccination rate which surely gives some cause for satisfaction.

The following are statistics available for the year ended 31st December, 1956:—

Number of invitations sent out to parents of newly born children:—

for vaccination	...	...	...	3,876
for immunisation	...	...	...	3,876

Completed Immunisations and Vaccinations.

		<i>Infant Welfare.</i>	<i>Private Doctors.</i>	<i>Schools.</i>	<i>Totals</i>
(a)	For diphtheria immunisation including combined	2,057	1,391	1,519	4,967
(b)	Secondary or boosting injections	35	180	2,700	2,915
(c)	For whooping cough immunisation only	43	228	2	273
(d)	For vaccination	†826	1,189	—	2,015
(e)	For revaccination	*3	114	—	117

† This figure includes 32 vaccinated at The Health Department.

* All these people were re-vaccinated at The Health Department.

POLIOMYELITIS AND VACCINATION

As advised in Ministry of Health Circular 2/56, limited supplies of poliomyelitis vaccine became available in May and June, 1956, for the protection of those children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive, whose parents indicated in writing their wish to have their children vaccinated.

Approximately 36,000 letters were sent direct to the parents of children in the eligible age groups and 13,629 consent forms were completed and returned to the Health Department by the appropriate date to permit a return to the Medical Research Council on 14th April, 1956, of a statement of the total numbers of acceptances by month and year of birth for each sex. The acceptance rate was therefore approximately 38 per cent.

This low figure was attributed to adverse publicity as a consequence of the unfortunate incident in America in 1955, when the Salk vaccine was introduced, and this despite an intensive local publicity campaign explaining the care in manufacture and the stringent safety tests of the British vaccine.

By the end of the year after a prolonged break during the summer months in deference to the "polio season", about 1,000 children had received the complete course of two injections, and about a further 800 had received a single injection only. There were no significant untoward reactions and none of the injected children subsequently developed poliomyelitis.

The incidence of poliomyelitis in 1956 was low, there being only 17 notified cases (1955—27 cases). There was, however, a high incidence of infection due to a virus very similar to that causing poliomyelitis involving no less than 70 individuals, 53 of whom were admitted to hospital with a transient "aseptic meningitis", the cause of which was identified as E.C.H.O. 9 Virus.

POLIOMYELITIS—APPLICATIONS FOR IMMUNISATION AND SUBSEQUENT IMMUNISATIONS, 1956

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS		GRAND TOTALS
													Male	Female	
1947	Male ..	108	100	95	118	129	100	*60 †4	107	98	*81 †1	101	1263 *141 †5		2469 *280 †12
	Female ..	114	96	101	104	120	107	79 †6 *50	116	92	*89 †1	82		1206 *139 †7	
1948	Male ..	119	101	99	112	100	92	*86 †7 *55	96	95	*72	81	1177 *127 †7		2308 *242 †22
	Female ..	111	93	105	94	108	102	90 †13 *57	95	81	*64 †2	86		1131 *115 †15	
1949	Male ..	95	75	104	103	89	93	*82 †4 *54	94	73	*80 †1 *65	80	1073 *119 †5		2152 *239 †14
	Female ..	88	88	89	91	99	95	76 †8 *50	87	99	*78 †1 *70	78		1079 *120 †9	
1950	Male ..	80	91	102	90	87	71	*77 †4 *38	97	66	*59 †2 *43	74	980 *81 †6		1936 *184 †14
	Female ..	79	107	93	96	91	70	73 †7 *42	73	71	*74 †1 *61	51		956 *103 †8	
1951	Male ..	86	70	*89 †2 *62	70	67	68 *1	*44 †1 *4	39	46 *3	*42 *33	53	736 *103 †3		1414 *206 †7
	Female ..	72	66	*88 †4 *65	54	49	48	57	60	43 *1	*39 *37	41		*678 *103 †4	
1952	Male ..	69	48	*52 †1 *40	47	46	51	*44 *3	37	48 *2	*43 *34	47	581 *79 †1		1169 *173 †3
	Female ..	52	54	*63 *55	43	50	43	50 *3	50	56 *4	*35 †2 *32	42		*588 *94 †2	
1953	Male ..	54	58	*37 †3 *30	61	57	47	*42 *33	45	48 *2	*36 †1 *29	37	589 *94 †4		1130 *204 †5
	Female ..	39	50	*62 *51	40	55	59	43 *20	41	34 *4	*39 †1 *26	36		*541 *110 †1	
1954	Male ..	59	46	*55 †2 *41	44	44	40	*37 *28	46	48 *4	*39 *30	39	538 *103 †2		1051 *206 †8
	Female ..	55	52	*48 †4 *43	51	51	43	40 *30	41	28 *2	*38 †2 *28	32		*513 *103 †6	

DYSENTERY

1956 too was a year of extremely high incidence for *Sonné* dysentery affecting particularly children under 15 years to the extent of 1,030 cases out of a total of 1,334 for all age groups.

The following table indicates the incidence in the four quarters by age groups for 1956, and the totals are compared with the figures for 1955 and 1954.

Dysentery, 1956.

	0—1	1—4	5—14	15—24	25—44	45—64	65+	Total
1st Quarter ...	—	23	59	5	14	2	—	103
2nd Quarter ...	7	123	173	12	51	17	3	386
3rd Quarter ...	10	103	161	18	55	17	4	368
4th Quarter ...	28	98	245	20	60	18	8	477
TOTALS ...	45	347	638	55	180	54	15	1334
1955	5	35	67	7	26	3	4	147
1954	2	20	30	6	8	1	—	67

Advice was circularised to headmasters and staff of all schools concerning the nature, mode of spread and methods for control of the infection; all school meals supervisors were similarly advised. Press publicity advised parents of what they should do to reduce the spread of infection, and all known cases of school age were excluded until the production of two consecutive negative faecal specimens, whilst household contacts were excluded until they were symptom free and had produced a single negative specimen.

The opportunity was taken to press for replacement of all roller towels in schools, canteens and kitchens by paper towels, and this programme was largely carried through during the epidemic. At the same time teachers insisted on children being meticulously careful about hand washing after visits to the toilet and before having meals. Hand rinses of antiseptic were made available after hand washing, and school caretakers took particular care to disinfect lavatory seats, handles of cisterns and lavatory doors and handles of taps, during the day.

The measures undoubtedly prevented a good many persons from contracting dysentery but did not eliminate the outbreak because the same measure of control could not be exercised in the home as obtained in the school, although health visiting was nevertheless intensified. Fortunately the disease was of a mild type and the main feature of the outbreak was its "nuisance value" since so much attention was needed from the limited staff available to the detriment of other work.

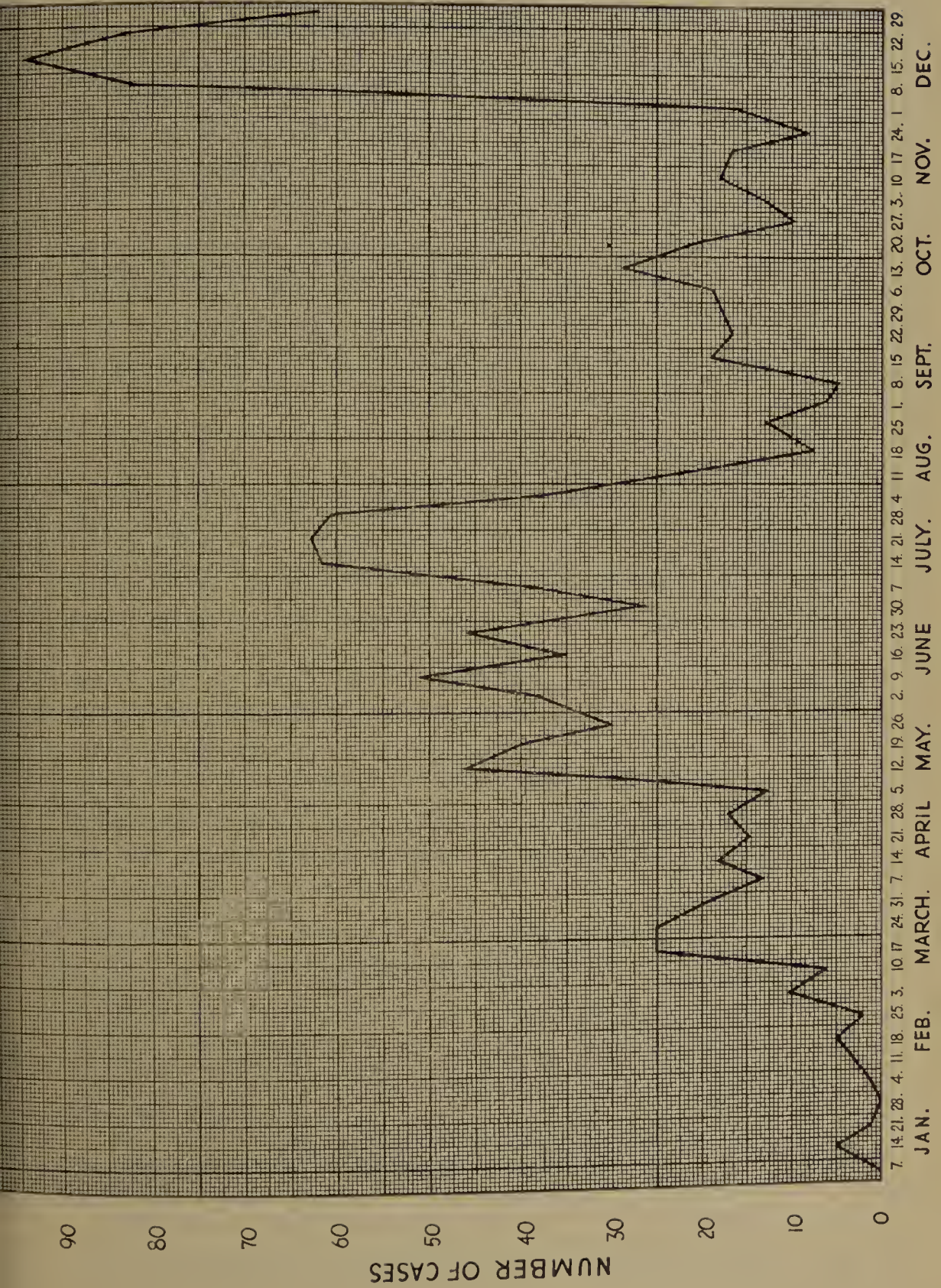
Ascertainment of cases was largely due to the efforts of the health visitors and public health inspectors through close liaison with schools.

Following the closure of all schools for the summer holidays the known cases declined rapidly (note graph) although there was no reason for assuming that the city was any less affected at this time.

Just prior to the Christmas holidays it was found necessary to close one school because of the increased incidence of the disease therein, which eventually involved some 61 children out of a total of 406 in the school. (N.B.—Further details of school incidence will be available in the Principal School Medical Officer's Report for 1956).

Notification from general practitioner sources was disappointingly low, and indeed most notifications as indicated in my report for 1955 continued to come from a relative few only.

The friendly and intensive co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory Service in Coventry, which carried out many thousands of bacteriological examinations at times under extremely difficult circumstances, was greatly appreciated; as indeed also when a similar service was provided in investigating a hospital outbreak of *Salmonella enteritidis* affecting 20 persons and resulting in 5 deaths, 3 of which were young babies.



AMBULANCE SERVICE

Section 27

The demands made upon our ambulance service continue at a high level, although there was a slight decrease during 1956. This was primarily achieved by placing out to contract the transport arrangements for the Burns Road Occupation Centre, which previously were proving to be a heavy drain upon the service, especially at peak periods.

The total number of patients conveyed by the City Ambulance Service during 1956 was 101,305 with an average of 277 patients carried per day. The reduced mileage is partly a reflection of the smaller number of patients carried, but it is also largely contributed to by the continued low average mileage per patient transported. The slight increase in this figure is due to the development of the new housing estates on the periphery of the city.

The following table of comparative statistics for the years 1952 to 1956 is of interest :—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of patients carried	101,486	112,636	119,022	115,860	101,305
No. of miles travelled	430,397	437,791	420,534	392,968	370,649
Average mileage per patient	4.24	3.88	3.53	3.39	3.65

The two charts which appear hereinafter show (1) the average and maximum number of patients moved each day of the week for a whole year, and (2) the average and maximum number of patients moved during two hourly periods throughout a twenty-four hour day, and this illustrates the work performed by the various shifts which run from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

The continued use of the 'J' type sitting case ambulance has enabled us to meet the demands of hospital out-patients in the most economical way. The economy achieved by the introduction of an 8-berthed ambulance for the transport of maternity cases from hospital to convalescence has received much favourable comment : the transfer of 1,754 maternity cases from one of our Coventry hospitals during 1956 was made easier by the use of this vehicle.

The year just closed has seen the final disposal of all pre-war and wartime ambulances from our strength.

Early in the year the maintenance staff was reorganised and the introduction of two classes—Mechanic Grade 1 and Grade 2 brought a more acceptable arrangement into the workshop.

I am indebted to the Ambulance Superintendent (Mr. F. G. Warwick) for the following detailed report :—

Staff.

The staff engaged in this service was as follows ; the comparative figures for 1955 are shown in brackets :—

Superintendent	...	...	...	1	(1)
Deputy Superintendent	...	...	...	1	(1)
Sub-Officer	...	...	...	1	(1)
Shift Leaders	...	...	...	4	(4)
Sub-Shift Leaders	...	...	...	4	(4)
Ambulance Drivers (Male)	...	...	...	46	(48)
Ambulance Drivers (Female)	...	...	...	10	(9)
Attendant (Female)	...	...	...	1	(1)
Mechanics, Grade 1	...	...	...	6	(4)
Mechanics, Grade 2	...	...	...	1	(1)
Telephonist	...	...	...	1	(1)
Total				76	(75)

This is 6 below the authorised establishment of 82 personnel.

Five of the staff qualified for the Corporation's superannuation scheme, bringing the total number of superannuable members to 36.

The following table shows the years of service with the Corporation of the employees :—

20 years' service or over	...	...	...	1
15 years' service or over	...	...	...	5
10 years' service or over	...	...	...	10
5 years' service or over	...	...	...	19
Under 5 years' service	...	...	...	41
Total				76

Vacant Posts.

There were 26 applications for vacant posts but only 2 of these were required and appointed.

Health of Staff.

There was an increase in certified illness during 1956, the days so lost numbering 805 compared with 686 days for 1955. A further 19 days were lost through absence without leave.

Two members of the staff were absent as a result of injuries sustained during their employment.

Duties and Leave.

The Shift Leaders, Sub-Shift Leaders and Male Drivers work on a three-shift system, with hours of duty as follows : 6—2, 2—10 and 10—6.

Alternate 40 and 48-hour weeks are worked by all personnel, who are paid weekly. As in all seven-day week services some overtime is inevitable, and this is arranged as necessary according to demands on the service.

Vehicles.

The operational strength of vehicles at 31st December was as follows :—

General purpose ambulances	...	...	11
Small sitting case ambulances	...	...	9
Large sitting case ambulances	...	...	2
Sitting case cars	...	...	0
			—
			22
			—

The maximum carrying capacity of all these vehicles at any one time would be :—

Stretcher cases	...	...	...	30
Sitting cases	...	...	...	102
				—
				132
				—

Other vehicles operated by the department include :—

- 1 Hillman estate car
- 2 old shooting brakes

New vehicles commissioned during the year include :—

- 1 Bedford ambulance with Pilcher bodywork (4 stretcher)
- 1 Bedford ambulance with Lomas bodywork (2 stretcher)

Of the ambulances, one is reserved entirely for the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases.

Airport Ambulance.

The Coventry Civic Airport ambulance is now being manned by the airport staff employed by the local authority, thus releasing the two members of this service for normal ambulance duties.

Petrol and Oil Supplies.

Supplies of petrol and oil are obtained in accordance with the Council's bulk purchasing arrangements and are stored in bulk tanks. The service provides fuel on charge for all vehicles of the Health Department and Civil Defence ambulances, and in addition, by mutual arrangements, for vehicles from other ambulance services coming to or passing through the city on production of a standard requisition.

Uniform.

Uniform clothing, comprising jacket, trousers (or skirts for lady drivers) hats, footwear, shirts and ties and overcoats or rain-coats are supplied at eighteen month intervals, through bulk purchase arrangements.

Method of Transmission of Calls.

All telephone calls are received through the switchboard in the Control Room on Coventry 5041/2/3, or by one of the direct lines from the Fire Brigade, the City Police, Coventry and Warwick-

shire or Gulson Hospitals; additionally a hand-operated telephone connects the Control Room with the Ambulance enquiry kiosk at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

By arrangement with the G.P.O. an additional telephone with a distinctive sounding bell is connected direct to the senior operator at the Telephone Exchange for the purpose of receiving "999" calls (priority) and this ensures immediate attention.

Over 2,650 calls were received on this line alone.

Ambulance Enquiry Kiosk.

The ambulance inquiry kiosk in the main entrance hall at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital is staffed during the daytime from 9 a.m. till 5.30 p.m. by a member of the Ambulance Service, whose duty it is to receive, correlate, and co-ordinate all hospital out-patient requirements before passing them to the ambulance control room. This system reduces the amount of waiting time for patients and obviates the duplication of requests and journeys.

Radio Telecommunications.

As new vehicles are purchased, radio equipment is transferred to them from older vehicles, or those which are to be used less, but there are still only 17 mobile sets available for the full fleet of 22 vehicles, although plans are in hand to increase the number of sets.

Arising partly from the continued use of V.H.F. radio the average mileage per patient is 3.65. Maintenance of this special equipment is carried out at regular intervals by the manufacturers' service department.

Accident and Emergency Journeys.

The number of accident and emergency journeys made during the year was 4,729, this differing only slightly from the year 1955, which was 4,739.

There is still very little change in the rate of home accidents, the total being 1,402: of these 37 cases received burns by fire and 10 of these had to be transported to the Burns Unit, Birmingham Accident Hospital.

Of the 4,729 accident cases attended, 126 were outside the City boundary.

The following tables indicate the source of origin of accident calls received :—

"999" calls from members of the public ...	...	2,650
Calls on 5041 (mostly from industrial premises) ...	...	808
Doctors on 5041 ...	...	204
Police private line ...	...	501
Fire Brigade private line ...	...	374
Hospital private line ...	...	108
Verbal messages to control room ...	...	12
Vehicle radio from ambulances on other work ...	...	72
		<hr/>
		4,729
		<hr/>

Services Not Required (Accidents).

Of the 4,729 accident calls responded to, on 340 occasions the services of the ambulance on arrival were not required.

Novox Resuscitators.

During the year the "Novox" resuscitators were used on 25 occasions upon patients who had collapsed or who were asphyxiated. On 20 occasions the patients were successfully restored to consciousness.

Occupation Centre, Burns Road.

Transport for conveyance of the pupils to and from the Occupation Centre is now hired from a local coach operator, but three escorts daily are provided by this service. The number of pupils carried by the contractor was 11,344.

City Traffic Congestion.

Some delay has been noted as a result of traffic congestion in the central streets of the city, especially during peak periods, but with police co-operation these are reduced to a minimum.

The prohibition of wheeled traffic in the Precinct (shopping centre) has already placed the ambulance personnel at a disadvantage; the case of a collapsed woman in a public office on the first floor necessitated her being carried by stretcher down the steps from the bridge and then some 50 to 60 yards to the nearest open road where the ambulance had been parked.

Treatment at the Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa.

Patients are taken each day from their homes in Coventry to the Pump Rooms at Leamington for various forms of spa treatment. This service conveyed 5,000 patients in the year.

Civil Defence.

Driving instructions are given at weekends to civil defence personnel, using the Civil Defence Corps ambulances. The two ambulances are manned by civil defence instructors, and during 1956 15 civil defence personnel were successful in passing their driving test.

Inspection of First Aid Equipment.

By arrangement with the Water Engineer, an officer of the Ambulance Service has on two occasions inspected all first-aid outfits in the Water Department establishments and replenished stocks as necessary. This method has ensured that the equipment is at all times kept in a usable condition.

Transport of Patients by Train.

The facilities offered by British Railways for the conveyance of patients to distant places by train have been used for 147 patients. The special "Parrot" stretcher was used on 14 occasions for transporting bedridden patients.

The 147 journeys by train have resulted in a saving of approximately 25,880 road miles. The temporary absence of both vehicles and personnel is a feature of long distance journeys, and any reduction in these calls is a definite saving.

General.

The extent of the demand from the Hospital Management Committee for the transport of patients to hospitals and homes outside Coventry will be seen from the following list of places to which 8,844 patient journeys were made during 1956 :—

The Towers, Kenilworth	Birmingham	—General Hospital
Kenilworth Convalescent Home		Maternity Hospital
Warwick Central—Leigh House		Eye Hospital
Warwick—King Edward VII Chest		Women's Hospital
Hospital		Queen Elizabeth
Warwick Hospital		Hospital
Pump Rooms, Leamington		Accident Hospital
Warneford Hospital, Leamington		Dudley Road
River Park Nursing Home, „		Orthopædic Hospital
George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton		Ministry of Pensions
Manor Hospital, Nuneaton		Woodlands Hospital
Higham Grange	Romsley Sanatorium	
Bramcote Hospital	Marston Green Hospital	
Blackwell Recovery Hospital	Harboro Magna Hospital	
St. Cross Hospital, Rugby	Smethwick Hospital	
St. Luke's Hospital, Rugby	Grendon Hospital	
Bolehill, Tamworth	St. Wulstan's, Malvern	
St. Peter's, Droitwich	Gables House, Droitwich	
Ronkswood Hospital, Worcester	Ratcliffe Hospital, Oxford	
Manfield Hospital, Northampton	Bradwell Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent	
Leicester Royal Infirmary		
Creaton Sanatorium, Northampton		

Occasional abuses of the ambulance service facilities and a few difficulties which are common in all similar services occur from time to time, but these have dwindled to negligible proportions and are usually dealt with by the officer on duty.

The charts and tables which appear on the following pages illustrate further the work performed by the City Ambulance Service during the year.

In conclusion, I would say that we in the Ambulance Service appreciate very much the interest shown by the Health Committee in the running of the service, and the most helpful day to day liaison with the Health Department. I also wish to thank the City Police, the Fire Brigade, and the hospital staffs for their valued co-operation throughout the year."

AMBULANCE SERVICE
Record of Work Performed for Year Ending 31st December, 1956.

(1) 1956		(2) No. of vehicles at 31.12.56	(3) Total No. of journeys during year	(4) Total No. of patients carried during year	(5) Number of accident and emergency journeys during year (incl. in column 3)	(6) Total mileage during year	(7) No. of paid whole time staff at 31.12.56
Directly Provided Service(s)	Ambulances	22	24923	98012	4729	244809	76
	Cars	1	1498	2293	—	25840	
	Ambulances	—	—	—	—	—	
Agency Service(s)	Cars	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supplementary Service(s)	Ambulances	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cars	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		23	36421	101305	4729	370649	76

CLASSIFICATION OF PATIENTS CONVEYED.

Patients involved in Accidents	For Treatment	After Treatment	Admissions	Discharges	Transfers	House to House	Total
4681	35099	37368	8186	5401	10423	147	101305

TRANSPORT AND OTHER WORK (NUMBER OF JOURNEYS).

Home Nursing Service	Municipal Midwives	Public Health Dept.	Councillors	Civic Airport	Civil Defence	Hospital Equipment	Miscellaneous	Total
571	8	53	0	4	0	0	12	648

A point of interest is that the 571 journeys for the Home Nursing Service involved a total of 12,732 miles and 1,748 drivers hours. This gives an average of 4.7 hours and 34.7 miles per day with an average of 22.2 miles per journey.

VEHICLES IN USE AT

General Purpose Ambulances.

<i>Fleet No.</i>	<i>Registration Number.</i>	<i>Make.</i>	<i>H.P.</i>	<i>Date Purchased.</i>	<i>Mileage during 1956</i>
5	GKV 211	Humber	27	April 1948	5,759
7	FYH 107	Morris	16	August 1949	737
19	MWK 219	Bedford	27	November 1952	13,472
20	MWK 220	Bedford	27	January 1953	17,132
21	MWK 221	Bedford	27	February 1953	17,297
40	PHP 40	Bedford	27	October 1954	21,783
41	PHP 41	Bedford	27	November 1954	14,131
42	PRW 451	Karrier	33	October 1954	9,092
44	RVC 44	Bedford	27	November 1955	19,038
45	SDU 45	Bedford	27	March 1956	10,852
46	RVC 46	Bedford	27	March 1956	10,907
1956 Totals					140,200

Sitting Case Ambulances.

14	MHP 579	Morris P.V.	14	August 1952	11,736
15	MWK 315	Morris "J"	14	December 1952	18,908
16	MWK 316	" "	14	December 1952	16,417
17	MWK 317	" "	14	February 1953	16,394
18	MWK 318	" "	14	February 1953	26,474
22	MKV 288	Karrier	16	May 1953	12,589
35	PDU 35	Morris "J"	14	July 1954	16,386
36	PDU 36	" "	14	July 1954	17,636
37	PDU 37	" "	14	July 1954	18,818
38	PDU 38	" "	14	August 1954	15,020
39	PDU 39	" "	14	September 1954	16,300
1956 Total					186,678

Utility Vehicles.

43	GRW 158	Willys Jeep	20	September 1947	1,111
	FDU 275	Humber Snipe	27		2,275
	RKV 643	Hillman Minx	10	November 1955	3,865
1956 Total					7,251

Vehicles withdrawn from Service during the year.

4	GVC 975	Humber	27	March 1948	2,531
6	HRW 967	"	27	January 1949	8,391
23	FYH 343	Morris	16	Ex. W.D. Taken	737
25	FYU 527	"	16	over from H.S.F.	1,858
33	FYH 278	"	16	on 5.7.53	3,874
11	JHP 32	Humber Hawk	14	August 1949	530
12	JRW 242	" "	14	November 1949	12,311
13	JRW 635	" "	14	January 1950	12,999
Totals 1956					43,231

31st DECEMBER, 1956

Petrol Consumed (Gallons.)	Oil Consumed (Pints.)	M.P.G.	Total Vehicle Mileage.	Age of Vehicle.	
				Years.	Months.
747	148	7.7	139,367	8	9
119	28	6.1	Not known Ex. W.D.	17	5
1,179	190	11.4	54,754	4	2
1,380	281	12.4	58,501	4	0
1,425	207	12.1	65,133	4	0
1,857	213	11.7	42,334	2	3
1,460	152	9.6	30,962	2	2
993	37	9.1	22,182	2	3
1,678	162	11.3	19,698	1	2
952	54	11.3	11,107	—	10
967	45	11.2	11,192	—	10
12,757	1,517	10.99	Average Age at 31.12.56	4	4

849	162	13.8	59,915	4	5
1,141	134	16.5	76,859	4	1
875	32	18.7	69,871	4	1
1,052	59	15.5	61,322	3	11
1,450	154	18.2	83,314	3	11
793	72	15.8	57,639	3	8
923	35	17.7	38,097	2	6
947	55	18.6	38,827	2	6
1,007	64	18.6	43,178	2	6
869	80	17.2	32,421	2	5
905	49	18.0	34,959	2	4
10,811	896	17.26	Average age at 31.12.56	3	3

100	30	11.1	} Not known. Ex. W.D. 4,416	17	0
296	30	7.6		17	0
199	23	19.4		1	2
595	83	12.18	Average Age at 31.12.56	11	8

275	48	9.2	142,714	G.P. Ambulance	
1,014	242	8.2	140,070	"	
79	6	9.3	} Not known ex. W.D.	"	
216	102	8.6		"	
362	34	10.7		"	
38	4	13.9	130,020	Sitting " Case Car	
832	135	14.7	136,317	"	" "
852	114	15.2	123,669	"	" "
3,668	685	11.78			

SUMMARY OF THE LAST 6 YEARS' WORK.

	1956.	1955.	1954	1953	1952	1951
No. of Ambulances	23	24	25	23	24	20
No. of Cars	1	3	3	5	5	5
Number of paid whole-time Staff	76	75	76	80	79	81
No. of journeys by Ambulance	34,923	35,854	34,386	30,329	29,526	32,860
by Car	1,498	1,468	3,382	7,106	8,336	6,319
Total	36,421	37,322	37,768	37,435	37,862	39,179
No. of Patients by Ambulance	99,012	114,045	113,449	100,215	87,929	79,080
by Car	2,293	1,815	5,573	12,421	13,557	9,961
Total	101,305	115,860	119,022	112,636	101,486	89,041
% increase or decrease over previous year	12.56 Decrease	2.6 Decrease	17.6 Increase	10.98 Increase	13.97 Increase	14.00 Increase
Total Mileage by Ambulance	344,809	362,194	346,127	335,584	301,252	317,574
by Car	25,840	30,774	74,407	102,207	129,145	111,722
Total	370,649	392,968	420,534	437,791	430,397	429,296
% increase or decrease over previous year	5.67 Decrease	1.52 Decrease	2.53 Decrease	1.71 Increase	.25 Increase	.53 Increase

Total No. of patients during the 6 years as above ... 639,350
 Total mileage during the 6 years as above ... 2,481,563
 Average mileage per patient during the last 6 years ... 3.88

<i>Analysis of Patients Conveyed in Journeys out of Town</i>	<i>Total</i>
Patients discharged from, or after treatment at Coventry Hospitals to places outside the City	63
Patients for or after treatment in Hospitals or Clinics outside Coventry (excluding Keresley Hospital). ...	4,794
Patients discharged from Hospitals, Nursing Homes or Convalescent Homes outside Coventry (excluding Keresley Hospital).	576
Removals from private houses in Coventry to private houses in other towns	34
Admissions to Hospitals, Nursing Homes or Convalescent Homes outside city (excluding Keresley Hospital). ...	1,355
Transfers from Coventry Hospitals or Clinics to Hospitals, Convalescent Homes or Clinics outside Coventry, (excluding Keresley Hospital) or return	2,022
Total ...	8,844
Number of journeys by road of 50 miles or over from Coventry	106

CHART SHOWING THE DAILY MAXIMUM &
DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS
REMOVED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

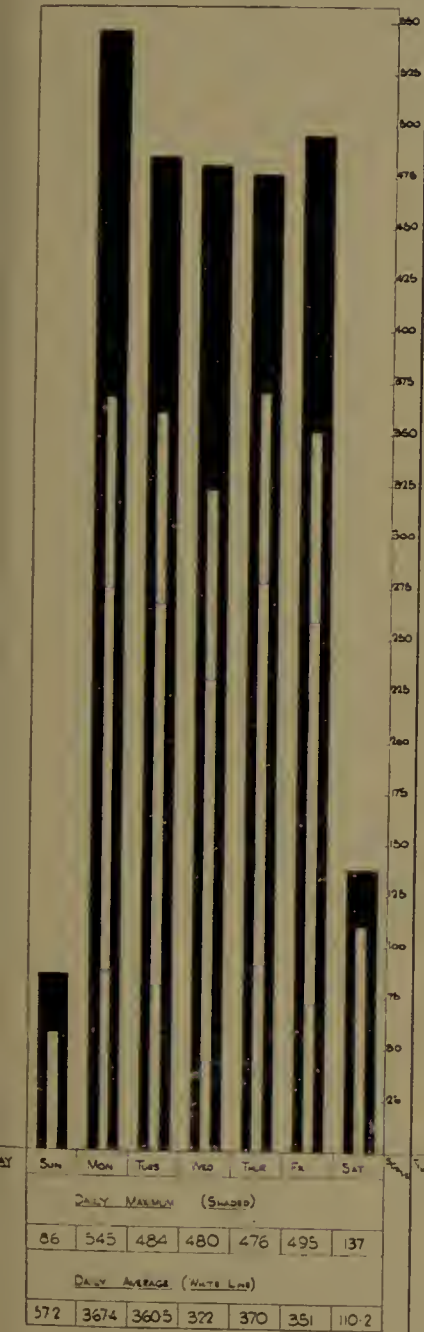
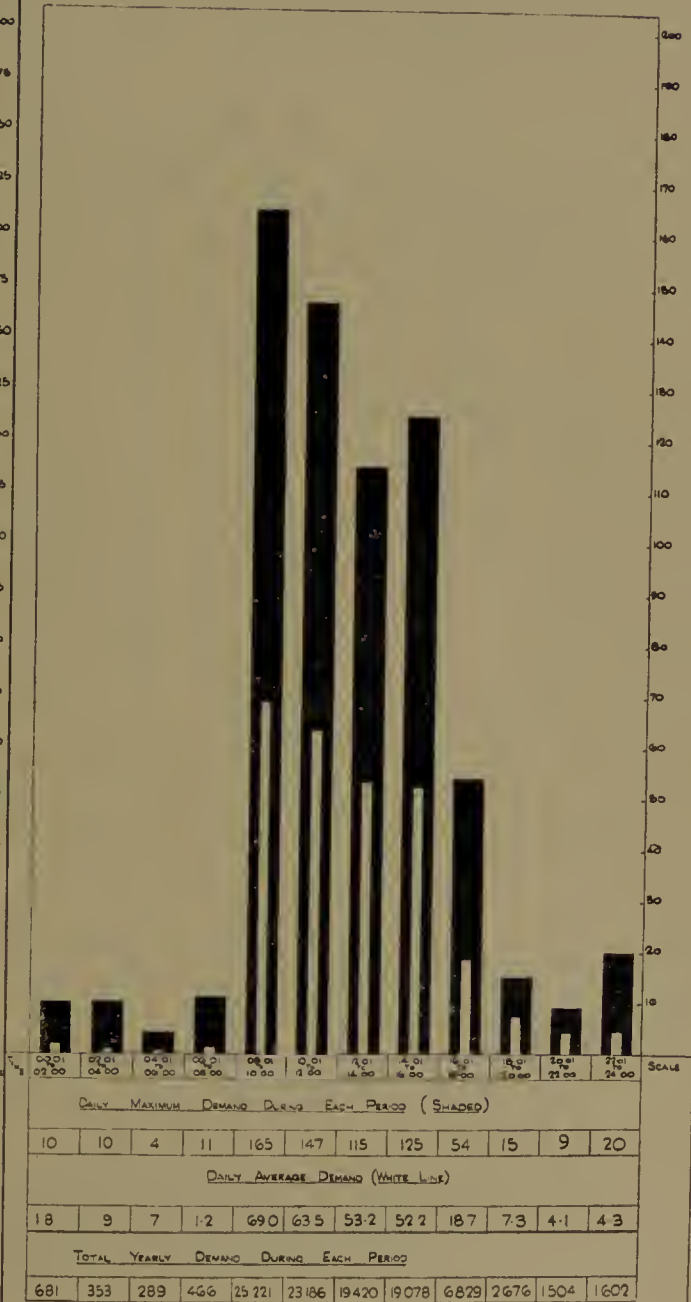
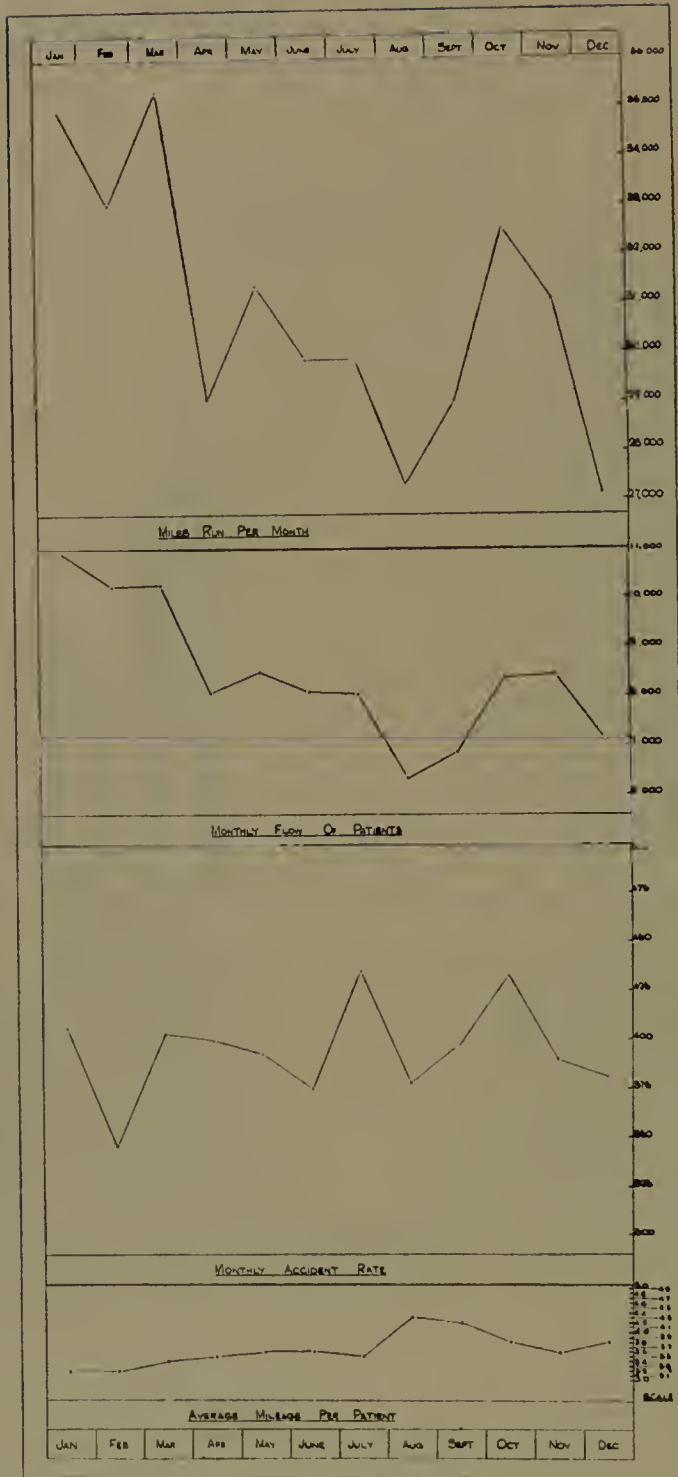


CHART SHOWING THE DAILY AVERAGE DEMAND FOR
AMBULANCE TRANSPORT IN TWO HOURLY PERIODS
DURING THE 24 HOURS OF THE DAY





PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE

Section 28

Developments under our Section 28 provisions of the National Health Service Act progressed as far as it was practicable during 1956. The routine services in regard to Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease, Health Education and the Provision of Nursing Equipment and Appliances have proceeded and developed within reasonable limits. The scheme for Meals for the Sick and Aged, which commenced in July, 1949, continues to function most satisfactorily and is referred to later on page 55.

TUBERCULOSIS

Great importance is attached to the regular domiciliary visiting of tuberculous patients and the closest links are maintained between Health Department staff and that of the Chest Clinic to ensure necessary attention, help and advice being given to patients and also to reduce the incidence of and mortality from the disease as far as is possible.

There were six full-time tuberculosis visitors available on the staff during the year, and they continue to do excellent advisory and environmental work on the district and also undertake regular liaison work at the Chest Clinic.

During the year under review the visitors made 456 visits to new cases and the total number of visits to all tuberculosis cases was 4,815 compared with 3,476 in 1955. The visitors were also responsible for 182 reports on housing circumstances of special cases.

In 1956 there was no call for a shelter to be issued by the department to tuberculosis patients, and at the end of the year four were in continuing use by patients within the city.

Sputum flasks and disinfectants, etc., were supplied to appropriate cases as also were beds (in some cases on loan), bedding and clothing etc., to the following extent :—

Number of cases involved	Number of Articles involved									
	Blankets	Pillows	Pillow Cases	Quilts	Beds	Mattresses	Sheets	Pyjamas	Bed Jackets	Dressing Gowns
12	—	14	—	—	12	13	—	—	—	—

The provision of free milk to tuberculous patients has continued during the year as shown in the following table :—

No. of persons receiving milk at 1st January,	
1956 	332
No. of additional persons allowed milk during	
1956 	179
Total number who received milk during 1956	511
No. of persons receiving milk at 31st	
December, 1956 	323
Cost during year ended 31st December, 1956	£5,959 12s. 10d.

Every application for free milk is subject to enquiry by the tuberculosis visitors, and their reports are carefully scrutinised before milk is authorised. All applications are reconsidered quarterly.

In several cases second-hand furniture which has been given to the department for needy cases was appropriately distributed to patients.

Some of the cases applying for assistance were tuberculous patients in receipt of allowances from the National Assistance Board, and the Board accepted responsibility for the provision of bedding.

There has been a continued requirement by patients recovering in Sanatoria for appropriate flats, provided by the Housing Committee, to which they may eventually be discharged. The Health Committee has, in such cases, assisted by providing beds and bedding, and the National Assistance Board has agreed to consider applications for assistance in purchasing other household equipment before the patient is discharged, provided the equipment cannot be obtained from the Housing Committee or from voluntary sources.

Tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board continues to send a proportion of Coventry patients to hospital and sanatoria in the region other than Hertford Hill, and the waiting list of City patients at this latter sanatorium has become of minor significance.

Arrangements also continue whereby the Health Department arranges to send a few patients suffering from chronic tuberculosis to a private convalescent home on the Northumbrian coast specifically administered for this purpose: these upon the recommendation of the local Chest Physician. Convalescents usually stay at the home a few weeks, and this is of considerable rehabilitative value and is much appreciated by them.

The provision of free milk to domiciliary patients under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act is, perforce, upon a sizeable scale, there being some 400 persons receiving this daily.

Occupational Therapy.

During the year the Department was enabled to obtain the part-time services of an Occupational Therapist. Tuberculosis at the best of times is a most depressing disease and anything which can be accomplished to create a persistent mental uplift in patients is something well worth while achieving. Occupational therapy, therefore, is of particular value to the domiciliary tuberculous in occupying their minds in creative and mildly stimulating productive work. Indeed, from time to time one hears of patients who go so far as to give pride of place for their recovery to the relief from monotony occasioned by this kind of therapy.

Because of their type of disability friendly visitors are often infrequent to tuberculous households, and there is, therefore, most often an appreciative welcome for anyone helping a patient to achieve something practical and even to make a little pocket money and thereby a degree of independence.

The work produced is invariably of good standard and in many cases quite exceptional and, at the present time, the sale of goods has presented no difficulties. Occasionally patients are hesitant to commence occupational therapy because of financial doubts, but this is usually overcome when the scheme is explained to them.

The patients are very appreciative of the advantageous cost of materials and of the fact that they can, if necessary, commence at no immediate cost to themselves. Patients have been occupied in the following crafts :—art; artificial flowers; basketry; carpentry; dressmaking; embroidery; feltcraft; knitting; leatherwork; lampshade making; marquetry; model craft; rugmaking; stool making; tapestry work; weaving.

No. of patients in the scheme	...	...	...	191
No. of visits to homes	...	...	...	194
No. of patients seen in office since July 1956	...	...	...	566

Venereal Diseases.

Our Health Visitors co-operate with the staff at the hospital treatment centre, and during 1956 were responsible for 80 visits to domiciliary defaulters from clinic treatment.

Cancer.

The health visitors also made 45 follow-up visits to cancer sufferers during 1956. These were at the request of and by arrangement with the medical staff at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.

Meals for the Sick and Aged.

The Mobile Meals Service provided under section 28 of the National Health Service Act has been functioning for approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ years, and experience has shown that it continues adequately to justify itself as part of the social service and to prove

its worth for the benefit of those who are sick and otherwise physically unable to prepare their own meals and who have no relatives or friends to do it for them. Local medical practitioners make full use of the service for appropriate patients.

The service was designed to cater initially for a maximum of 100 persons, and from approximately 40 meals per day in the early stages of the scheme the number has increased, there being an average of 101 meals per day for the year ended 31st December, 1956. Since the inception of the service a gross total of 179,718 meals have been provided. Owing to the demands on the service, it is not now possible to cater fully for those requiring meals each day and an extension of the service is now fully justified.

Meals obtained from the Catering Department continue to be provided on five days each week (Monday to Friday) from the two specially adapted delivery vans which are manned by part-time personnel.

The service commenced with certain original and novel features which, together with other modifications, have now tended to become somewhat standardised throughout the country and make for easy handling of meals, which are carried in special (individual portion) insulated food carriers, each carrier holding five meals.

The following figures will give some indication of how the service functioned during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Total number of meals supplied	25,796
Average number per day (<i>i.e.</i> , five days per week)	101
Cost of purchasing meals	£2,144 6s. od.
Contributions from recipients	£159 5s. od.
Net cost	£1,985 1s. od.
Mileage run by two vans (approximate)	14,040

Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus.

A variety of sick-room appliances are available to the public upon request and the items available are augmented from time to time as necessary : they are loaned out at reasonable charges—or in some cases quite free of charge—depending upon individual circumstances.

Checking of equipment is carried out periodically, and although in past years there have been instances in which items of equipment have been treated carelessly this type of difficulty has been less frequent during the year under review.

The following is a brief summary of items available from the Gulson Road Clinic :—

Air rings; back rests; bed pulleys; bed cages; bed pans; bed tables; bronchitis kettles; douche cans; dunlopillo mattresses; commodes; crutches; feeding cups; hospital beds; invalid chairs (indoor and outdoor); rubber sheets; spinal carriages; urine bottles; walking machines; walking sticks; water bottles.

HEALTH EDUCATION

In my Annual Reports over the past ten years I have laid increasing emphasis upon the growing importance of this subject and it is most necessary that the public, whether in small or large groupings or indeed as individuals, should be abreast of modern health trends in the preventive field. Moreover, while great advances have been made in health and welfare measures during latter decades, it is quite essential that the gains of the past should not be lost sight of through any complacent tendency.

It is worthy of re-stressing that pretty well every sectional staff of a modern health department is doing important health educational work of one sort or another whether they be doctors, nurses, welfare workers or public health inspectors and whether they be engaged in clinics, schools, in the homes of the people or in places of occupation. Such desirable work must obviously proceed, but the activities of such staffs in this connection are perforce spasmodic because of their other routine and onerous duties.

The subject is of such importance therefore that I make no apologies for repeating what I expressed in my 1953 Annual Report, namely, that because of its wide and varied implications and because Health Education should have a persistent and potently beneficial impact upon public opinion, there is real need for a sufficient financial outlay : the results achieved for the community thereby would more than compensate for spendings of this nature.

Information upon the subject was further enhanced when the City Council enabled the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health to attend the International Conference in Rome during late April and early May, 1956. At this gathering there was widespread international appreciation of the great value and potentialities of health education and, indeed, one of the principal speakers stressed that the time of health propaganda was now over and that sufficient financial means must be forthcoming to develop a good health education programme in the various localities. The subject should be dealt with as a collective team effort in every aspect of a department's health and welfare work.

This country as a pioneer in early health measures is well advanced in most aspects of preventive medicine and during the latter year or so the importance of health education and its varied application resolved the Central Council for Health Education, in association with London University, to arrange a Diploma Course which now occupies a full study year. A number of students attending such a course made the journey to Rome for the conference as part of their training.

The study group discussions both in Geneva (World Health Organisation) and Rome showed a remarkable degree of unanimity for the appointment of officers, specifically trained in modern health educational methods and techniques, to assist the Medical Officer

of Health in giving continuous effect to the variegated educational requirements of the present day Health and School Health Departments.

The wide purview of health education is indeed of the greatest future importance in the further advancement of preventive medicine and is deserving of persistent and concentrated attention.

An annual grant is made to the Central Council for Health Education, which in turn provides a wide range of health education propaganda material. Lectures and informal talks, suitably illustrated as need be have been given to various organisations and groups in the city during the year by different members of the departmental staff.

Convalescence.

The City Council has accepted financial responsibility for hospital patients needing essential recuperative convalescence following their treatment. Such cases are recommended by the consultant staff and passed to the hospital almoners for allocation to acceptable convalescent homes.

All applications are, of course, scrutinised by the Medical Officer of Health prior to recommendation to the Health Committee.

Of the applications submitted 109 were approved and accepted as a charge on the Health Committee. The 109 cases were accepted for periods of 2, 3 or 4 weeks' convalescence in various seaside homes, and of these 10 were granted an extension of the original period based on further medical representations.

The cost of the maintenance of these patients to the department during the current year was £1,131 1s. 7d.

In addition, in 1956 travelling facilities were provided by way of rail or bus fares at a cost of £387 16s. 0d.; 108 patients with 77 escorts were paid for; the Education Committee refunded the Health Committee to the extent of £241 5s. 9d. for the journeys of 46 school children with 76 escorts.

In accordance with the authority contained in Ministry of Health Circular 85, travelling facilities were made available to relatives for the purpose of visiting patients in hospitals outside Coventry. 519 travel warrants were so issued to the relatives of 46 patients throughout the year; the cost amounted to £326 4s. 8d.

A comparison of the extent and the cost of these services in the last two years they have operated is as follows :—

	1956.	1955.
Applications for convalescence received ...	109	137
Applications for convalescence approved	109	137
Applications for extension	10	11
Cost of maintenance in convalescent homes	£1,131 1s. 7d.	£1,336 2s. od.
Travel facilities provided		
—No. of patients ...	108	168
Cost of such	£387 16s. od.	£435 9s. 11d.
Visiting facilities for relatives :—		
No. of patients visited	46	52
No. of travel vouchers granted	519	770
Cost	£326 4s. 8d.	£460 10s. 10d.

HOME HELPS SERVICE

Section 29

The staff engaged in this section of the department at 31st December, 1956, was as follows :—

1	Organiser
4	Assistants to the Organiser
3	Clerks
140	Home Helps

A summary of the work done during the year shows :—

The total number of cases attended	1,177
Maternity cases	333
Illness and chronic sickness	175
Infirm and aged	616
Tuberculosis	10
Other cases	43

The year's records show :—

1955 applicants still on books	430
Applications in 1956	971
Advance applications for 1957	70
Cases actually assisted	1,177
Applications not pursued	211
Applications not eligible	28
Applications still on books at 31.12.56	448
Total number of visits to homes by home helps ...	39,702

The records for 1956 show that the demand for home helps has continued at a high level, the cases assisted having increased by 171 over those in 1955. A feature of the year's work has been the increase in the number of "infirm and aged" persons who have been helped, and this is indicative of the gradual trend in the social

services generally and the need for the closest of links between National Health Service Act and National Assistance Act provisions.

One result of this trend has been that the average case remains much longer on the books and receives attention for a longer period. This accounts for the marked increase in the number of visits paid to homes which was 39,702 compared with 32,335 in 1955.

As the proportion of aged and infirm people in the population increases so does the demand for the assistance of home helps, and it would appear that we have reached the stage when neither re-organisation nor closer control, of themselves, will enable us to fulfil the calls made upon us : *an increase in the number of home helps is the only solution, more hands being required in more places at the same time. This is a most urgent requirement which will need to have intensive and helpful consideration.*

It will be noted that since last year the staff is now depleted by 20 (140/160) and despite this the number of homes visited has increased considerably. This was achieved largely by the decentralisation referred to in my last report in the Bell Green and Lockhurst Lane areas. The reduction of travelling time which has followed the setting up and development of divisional offices has enabled the helps to give much more of their time to those in need of assistance, with the satisfactory results above referred to.

Another feature of the year's work was the organisation of a two weeks' preliminary course of training for prospective home helps. As a result 49 out of the 51 original applicants were successful and received appointments to the staff.

The Organiser and her assistants are to be congratulated together with such other departmental staff who helped in carrying out the organisational procedures mentioned above to such good effect.

The closest of links have always existed between the home helps, home nursing, and health visiting services; and likewise they have been developing more closely with the welfare provisions under the National Assistance Act. The Public Health Inspectorate on occasion have helped to resolve certain problems in connection with unhygienic homes.

MENTAL HEALTH

Section 51

Administration—Committee.

The Health Committee is responsible for all mental health work carried out by the local authority. By virtue of its approved scheme under Section 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the duties of the authority in connection with the Lunacy Acts, the Mental Deficiency Acts, and the Mental Treatment Act, were consolidated into a single service in the Mental Health Section of the

Health Department. Monthly reports on the work of the Section are submitted to the Health Committee.

Number and Qualifications of Staff.

The staff of the Health Department engaged on mental health work is : the Medical Officer of Health; the Deputy Medical Officer of Health as Medical Director; a Senior Authorised Officer and Petitioning Officer; three duly authorised officers (1 male and 2 female).

The Occupation Centre at Burns Road is staffed by a Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor with two assistants and 1 trainee assistant.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees.

Relations between the department, the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, and the medical staff and psychiatric social workers at the Central Mental Hospital, Hatton, continue to be satisfactory and mutually helpful. The sympathetic consideration by the Board of applications for the temporary institutional care of mentally defective children has again given much satisfaction.

Supervision of Patients on Trial from Mental Hospitals.

Patients on leave of absence in the community from the Central Mental Hospital, Hatton, are kept under supervision by the psychiatric social workers from the hospital, between whom and my staff there is mutual helpfulness.

On Licence from Mental Deficiency Institutions.

At the 31st December, 1956, 20 patients, 10 males and 10 females, were on licence and were supervised by the authorised officers from this department on behalf of the parent mental deficiency institution. For a large proportion of these cases work was required and found and the majority have progressed satisfactorily in their jobs. During the year as a result of a successful period on licence from institutions in the community, 15 patients were discharged from the Orders under the Mental Deficiency Act.

It is also the case that apart from the supervision of licenced cases in the community, a liaison is maintained with the Medical Superintendents of parent mental deficiency institutions which permits the friendly supervision of patients on long leave of absence from those hospitals.

Duties Delegated to Voluntary Associations.

The local health authority fulfils all duties imposed upon it by Section 51 of the National Health Service Act, 1946; there is no delegation.

Training of Staff.

All the Duly Authorised Officers have taken the special course organised by the National Association for Mental Health, and each of them has had practical experience of their work for the past nine years.

Work in the Community.

(a) Under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act.

During the year out-patient electrical convulsive therapy has continued to be available at Gulson Road Clinic. This is given each Saturday morning by the medical staff of the Central Mental Hospital at Warwick, assisted by members of the Home Nursing Service. 290 persons (60 males and 230 females) had this form of treatment during 1956.

There were 9 mentally defective patients admitted to temporary care in accordance with the provisions of Ministry of Health Circular 5/52 during 1956.

(b) Under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

During the year 1956 the Authorised Officers were responsible for 941 visits to patients under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, and in the same period 660 mental treatment patients and 145 persons of unsound mind from the area of this local health authority were admitted to mental hospitals for treatment.

The 1956 figures for mental treatment show an increase of 34 on those provided for the year 1955.

(c) Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

(i) Ascertainment and Supervision. During the year 1956, 40 cases were referred from all sources (including those under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, Section 57 (3) and (5), and by the police and courts), of which number 26 now receive supervision by the Authorised Officer. Most ascertainment examinations are carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

The domiciliary visiting work in respect of 311 patients under the statutory supervision of the Local Health Authority has been continued. In the main, the close relationship between the patient, the parent and the officer has been maintained and this has resulted in "sheltered" employment being found for many patients who would not otherwise have been able to cope in open industry.

(ii) Guardianship. At the 31st December, 1956, there were 7 patients under guardianship, to the guardians of 3 of whom weekly financial grants, varying from 20s. od. to 30s. od., were paid towards the cost of their maintenance at home.

(iii) Institutional Cases. The assistance made available by the Health Committee whereby four parents of restricted financial means were enabled to visit their defective children in hospitals has given considerable satisfaction. The value to the patients of these visits has been emphasised many times by the hospital medical superintendents.

During the year 1956 the work done under the three relevant Acts was as follows :—

Lunacy Acts, 1890—1891.

Coventry patients	Central Mental Hospital, Warwick			
	Sec. 16	Sec. 11	Sec. 20	Total
Number of patients remaining in hospital on 31.12.55.	417	—	1	418
Number of admissions from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1956.	93	—	52	145
Number of discharges, including deaths from 1st Jan., 1956 to 31st Dec., 1956.	97	—	51	148
Number of persons of unsound mind remaining in Central Hospital on 31.12.56.	413	—	2	415

I am indebted to the Senior Psychiatric Social Worker attached to this hospital for the following record of work amongst Coventry patients :—

- I.
 - (a) Total number of cases dealt with in period ... 554
 - (b) How many of these had been seen previously ... 229
 - (c) Total number of all visits (home or authority) ... 606
 - (d) Total number of interviews in O.P. clinics ... 328
2. How many were—
 - (a) Social histories only ... 183
 - (b) Social histories and other work ... 59
 - (c) One interview only (other than social history) ... 149
3. How many cases involved four visits and more ... 41

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

During 1956 the facilities under this Act were utilised as follows :—

1. No. of patients in Central Hospital, Warwick, under this Act on 1st January, 1956 ... Voluntary 195
... Temporary 3
2. No. of patients admitted during 1956 ... Voluntary 670
... Temporary 2
3. No. of patients discharged, transferred or died ... Voluntary 624
... Temporary 5
4. No. of patients remaining in hospital at 31st December, 1956 ... Voluntary 241
... Temporary 0

The proportion of voluntary to total Coventry patients admitted to the Central Hospital continues to be over 80 per cent. From the patients' point of view there can be no doubt as to the much more beneficial results achieved with willing patients seeking to be cured.

The close liaison continues between the department and the respective staffs in the departments of the Magistrates' Clerk and the Probation Officer.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.

Table showing Classification of all Mental Defectives on Register at 1st January, 1937, and how dealt with.

	In Institutions.			Under Guardianship.			Under supervision in own homes.			Grand Totals.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Feeble-minded ..	75	85	160	1	2	3	45	89	134	121	176	297
Imbeciles ..	43	52	95	3	1	4	70	93	163	116	146	262
Idiots ..	15	16	31	—	—	—	10	4	14	25	20	45
Moral Imbeciles ..	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
TOTALS ..	134	154	288	4	3	7	125	186	311	263	343	606

Totals do not include 20—(10 males, 10 females) on licence from Institutions

In addition to the above, nine patients were admitted to hospital for temporary treatment and care under the provisions of Circular 5/52 whereby parents or guardians having the domiciliary care of their mentally defective children can be afforded temporary relief from such harassing responsibility at times of family illness or other crises.

The number of registered mental defectives in the city (606) represents 2.03 per 1,000 of the population.

During the year 15 patients were admitted to a hospital for mental defectives and 1966 domiciliary visits have been made by the Authorised Officers.

As suggested in Circular 28/54 of the Ministry of Health, certain outstanding incidents during the year are set out hereunder :—

During the year 6 male mental defectives appeared before the court and were sent to hospitals under Section 8 of the Mental Deficiency Acts : (a) 2 of these cases were charged with indecent exposure; (b) 2 with larceny; (c) one with robbery with violence; and (d) one with attempted suicide.

(a) 2 male cases on licence from mental deficiency hospitals whose licences were revoked as a result of their appearance in court on charges of sexual interference with female persons.

(b) The two male cases charged with larceny were found guilty of jointly stealing lead and sharing the monies received. Both cases were sent to a hospital for mental defectives.

- (c) The case charged with robbery with violence was a feeble-minded man of 28 years. He was born in London and abandoned by his mother at the age of 2 and placed in the care of the London County Council. He had spent most of his life in institutions in and around London. Between 1935 and 1955 he had had ten convictions for larceny, assault and armed robbery, and had served varying periods of probation and detention in mental deficiency hospitals. Prior to his arrest in the early part of 1956 he had been residing for a few months in an industrial hostel in Coventry. In view of this man's history it was deemed expedient by the Board of Control to commit him to care at Rampton Hospital, Retford, Nottinghamshire.
- (d) The case brought before the court was a boy of 16 who was referred to my department after leaving school under Section 57(5) of the Education Act, and ascertained as a feeble-minded person. On leaving school he obtained a job as a porter at a local store, but was dismissed after 15 weeks' employment. This worried him very much, and when his mother went out in the afternoon of the day of his dismissal and he was left alone, he attempted suicide by coal gas poisoning. He was brought before the Juvenile Court and recommended for admission to the Central Hospital, Warwick. He was admitted there as a voluntary patient under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930. He has now been discharged from that hospital, but it has still not been found possible to obtain employment for him. In view of the difficulties in this case it has now been recommended that he be admitted to a hospital for mental defectives.
- (e) A male patient originally dealt with as "neglected" was discharged and returned to his widowed mother at 24 hours' notice. He had been on licence to an agricultural hostel where he was happy, working and doing well. His mother, an old age pensioner, had only one room at her disposal and was very upset by his discharge. Accommodation had to be found for him in an industrial hostel by an officer of my department, who was also instrumental in finding him employment in one of the nationalised industries.

Of the cases reported by the Local Education Authority during 1956 under Section 57(5) after leaving school, there were 14 cases (9 males, 5 females) in which the parents were unwilling for any further action to be taken in regard to ascertainment. All the cases in question have obtained employment and a discreet but unofficial eye is being kept on their progress.

During the year the Health Committee by resolution authorised the removal from the Register of Mental Defectives of the names of 105 cases (70 males and 35 females) on the grounds that after

some years of home supervision these were no longer in need of control.

The Health Committee also considered the position as it affected Coventry mental defectives in institutions of the ruling of the Lord Chief Justice that detention orders made on the grounds that the patients concerned were found "subject to be dealt with" by reason of their being "found neglected" were in some instances being detained on legally invalid orders. A careful examination was made of the records of all our local patients detained in (or on licence from) mental deficiency institutions and full details were supplied to the Town Clerk.

WORK OF THE OCCUPATION CENTRE

There were 77 pupils at the Occupation Centre, Burns Road, during 1956—47 females and 30 males.

A revised training schedule was introduced following the appointment of Mr. Norris as Superintendent on 2nd July, 1956. The timetable included speech education, eurhythmics, physical education, music and dancing, social and sense training, domestic science, and a variety of handicrafts. A number of the pupils attend weekly at the swimming baths under the supervision of the staff.

An active parent/teacher association is a feature of the centre. The association paid for a week's summer holiday at Dymchurch in Kent, for the pupils and staff of the centre, and also paid for a day's outing to Wicksteed Park. Both these events were a success. In December there was an Open Day at the centre, and parents and visitors had an opportunity of purchasing articles made by the children at the centre.

During the year one child was found full-time employment and another was transferred to a special school.

A high standard of health was maintained, and the attendance was extremely high.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The City Council delegated its duties under this Act as follows :—

(1) To the Health Committee.

The provision of residential accommodation as required for the handicapped and others in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them; the provision of temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need thereof under circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, and in such other circumstances as the Council determine; and other remaining duties imposed by this section of the Act. (Section 21).

The welfare of the blind, deaf, dumb and handicapped (Sections 29 and 30).

The registration and inspection of disabled persons or old persons homes (Sections 37, 38 and 39).

The compulsory removal to suitable premises if need be of persons in need of care and attention (Section 47).

Provisions for the temporary protection of property of persons admitted to hospitals (Section 48).

Dealing with applications for the appointment of a Receiver of Income where persons are mentally incapable of managing their affairs and where there are no other suitable persons willing to undertake this duty (Section 49).

The provision of facilities for the burial or cremation of the dead when no suitable arrangements for disposal have been or are being made (Section 50).

(2) To the Pensioners Committee.

The responsibility for providing and maintaining residential accommodation for the aged. (Section 21).

The Welfare Sub-Department is organised to carry out a variety of duties for the Health Committee (some under the National Health Service Act and others under the National Assistance Act), and all necessary duties for the Pensioners Committee under Section 21 (1)a of the National Assistance Act. With the general development which continues in the health and social services there is a close relationship between the work of the health visitors, the home helps, the mental health service and the welfare service, and an active liaison assists all sections.

A separate section of my report has been prepared specifically for the Pensioners Committee dealing with their field of responsibility (*i.e.*, Old Peoples Homes), and by a slight re-arrangement of the contents this has been achieved without any duplication of effort or of expense.

The Work of the Pensioners Committee during 1956.

Pensioners Officer : J. H. Ryner, F.C.C.S., F.I.S.W.

Deputy Pensioners Officer : F. Charlesworth, A.I.S.W.

Charterhouse, Moat House, St. Paul's and Stone House were all functioning as Homes for Old People when the National Assistance Act, 1948, came into operation on the 5th July, 1948. Newlands House, which was bought from the National Coal Board under a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1949, was the first Home to be acquired under the Act. It was originally intended that men only should be housed at this establishment but owing to the number of cases of women urgently requiring accommodation, it was decided to make the Home a mixed one. There are eight single bedrooms at this establishment, and it also has ground floor accommodation for 19 residents.

Woodway Grange, formerly the Walsgrave Annexe, which was returned to the Council by the Regional Hospital Board in September, 1951, is now functioning satisfactorily as a Home for elderly women.

The opening of Hawthorn Lodge in March, 1953, was an important step in the Council's scheme for the provision of residential accommodation for the old people of Coventry. This is the first of the existing seven Homes to be built specially for the purpose, and it provides accommodation for 40 residents plus staff. The Home has 11 ground floor beds and both sexes, including married couples, can be accommodated.

During the year the Committee made further and important progress in the scheme for the provision of residential accommodation, which has so long been envisaged. Wyken Lodge, the second purpose-built Home, was handed over by the Contractors in July, 1956, and the first residents were admitted on the 8th August, 1956. By its very nature, Wyken Lodge is a valuable addition to the accommodation provided, since it provides 42 beds with 21 of them on the ground floor. The Home has functioned very satisfactorily since its opening.

The opening of Wyken Lodge afforded the opportunity of converting Woodway Grange from a men's to a women's Home and of closing St. Paul's. As a consequence, the men from Woodway Grange were transferred to Wyken Lodge on the 8th August, 1956, and the women from St. Paul's were transferred to Woodway Grange on the 9th August, 1956. Thus it was possible to relieve, to some extent, the very great pressure in relation to accommodation for women and it was also possible to discontinue the use of St. Paul's, which has been de-requisitioned and returned to the owner, and which, whilst serving a useful purpose as a temporary expedient, was never very suitable for permanent use as an Old People's Home.

Since my last report the waiting list has been reviewed and now shews, as indicated hereunder, a reduction on the previous year, when the figures were 60 men and 78 women respectively.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
Waiting list at 31st December, 1955 ...	56	74
<i>Less</i>		
Subsequent admission of cases on waiting list	16	33
Died	9	7
Withdrawals	13	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Remaining on waiting list	18	30
<i>Plus</i>		
New applications during the year ...	24	31
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Waiting list at 31.12.1956	42	62
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The opening of Wyken Lodge, the converting into a women's Home of Woodway Grange and the closure of St. Paul's, gave a net increase in beddage of 29, as shewn hereunder.

<i>Homes.</i>	<i>Beds provided at 31st December, 1955.</i>	<i>Beds provided at 31st December, 1956.</i>
Wyken Lodge	Nil	42
Woodway Grange	22	26
St. Paul's	17	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	39	68
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Thus, had it not been for this extra beddage, the numbers on the waiting list would not have varied much from those shewn in December, 1955, despite the deaths, withdrawals, etc.

To secure the admission of patients to Hospital when they were seriously ill, it was again necessary to take in exchange patients fit for discharge from Hospital but who could not return home and were in need of some measure of care and attention.

Due to the opening of the new Home and to the re-arrangement of staff quarters at Newlands House and Woodway Grange, it has been possible to provide more ground floor accommodation, and out of a total of 235 beds, there are now 86 on the ground floor.

Unfortunately, progress on the building of Remembrance House and Aldermoor Lodge has been slower than was anticipated. Nevertheless, I trust that in my next report I shall be able to record that they have been completed and that the use of Charterhouse as a Home has been discontinued. The stone laying ceremony for both Homes took place on the 22nd October, 1956, when the Lord Mayor officiated and the Contractors generously provided refreshments.

The health of the residents at most of the Homes, allowing for their ages, infirmities and handicaps, has been reasonably good. There were 52 deaths (21 in our Homes and 31 in Hospital), the average age of the residents being 81.1 years.

The acute shortage of beds in this area for the chronic sick still persists. Nevertheless, we have the greatest measure of co-operation from the Hospital Authorities in relation to the admission of sick residents to Hospital, although in some instances, admissions, of necessity, have to be arranged on the basis of exchange. This shortage of beds, at times, imposes a heavy burden on the staffs of the Homes in relation to nursing, although in the circumstances the staffs cope admirably with the situation.

Industrial rehabilitation has been borne in mind, although there were no suitable individuals to recommend to the Rehabilitation Centre during the year.

One or two residents manifested anti-social tendencies during the year, and in an attempt to ameliorate the situation they were transferred to other Homes. To some extent, at least for the time being, this has improved the situation. Unfortunately, one or two difficult residents had to be transferred to the Central Hospital, near Warwick.

Again efforts have been made to improve the standard of equipment at the older Homes. A number of chairs have been re-upholstered, beds have had new wooden ends fitted and interior spring mattresses have been obtained to replace hair mattresses.

The Homes continue to be visited regularly by the Fire Prevention Officer and the Chief Fire Officer has commented upon the high standard in which fire fighting appliances are kept. An exclusive telephone line has now been obtained for Newlands House, and as a result all Homes now have exclusive telephone lines instead of shared services.

Great attention still continues to be paid to occupational therapy, since it is in the residents' own interests that, subject to their mental and physical capacity, they should remain active. This, however, is an uphill task and too few of the residents respond.

The residents this year took their annual week's holiday at Southdean Holiday Centre, Middleton-on-Sea, near Bognor Regis. This was a change of venue, as for the previous five years they had visited the Prestatyn Holiday Camp, North Wales. The number of residents participating was slightly less than in the previous year, due to extreme infirmity, or sickness or change of mind on the part of several residents. Unfortunately, the weather was very poor. Nevertheless, the residents made the best possible use of the amenities available. In connection with possible future holidays, the residents, who had had experience of both places, were asked to express their preference, and 18.5% favoured the Southdean Holiday Centre, while 81.5% favoured the Prestatyn Holiday Camp. The annual coach outing was again to Wicksteed Park.

There was again an adequacy of entertainment provided at each of the Homes by way of concerts, film shows, etc. Apart from this entertainment, the residents participated in many other social functions away from the Homes. Three Homes ran a series of

successful whist drives, the proceeds of which were devoted to the comfort of the residents and to giving each a gift on Christmas Day.

A large number of gifts and some generous donations were received, for which our grateful thanks are due to the thoughtful donors.

The spiritual side has been adequately catered for in each Home. Religious services have been held and Holy Communion celebrated. The Ministers of some of the Churches continue to provide transport to enable a number of frail ambulant residents to attend Church.

An innovation, which has been greatly appreciated by the women residents of the Homes, viz. ladies' hairdressing, commenced in November, 1956, and experience to date indicates how useful this service is proving.

For several years now it has been the practice to admit suitable elderly persons (many of them already on the waiting list for admission) to the Homes for short periods, to enable their relatives who normally look after them to take a holiday. This year 15 such elderly persons (as previously indicated) were accommodated. This has been achieved by using vacancies for holiday cases before filling them with permanent residents, using the beds of residents who have gone on holiday and, as a temporary measure only, by erecting extra beds. This service has proved extremely worthwhile and has been much appreciated, not only by relatives concerned, but by the old people themselves. With the building of new Homes, it will be possible to extend this service without the slightest inconvenience to existing residents.

Two of the Senior Staff attended Refresher Courses for Wardens and Matrons of Old People's Homes, and several members of the staff of the Homes attended a One Day Conference for Wardens and Matrons of Old People's Homes. An Assistant Matron attended a four months' training course for Wardens and Matrons of Old People's Homes. The staffing position at the Homes has been reasonably good throughout 1956, although there have been some changes in the senior staff.

Again I would like to express my appreciation of the work carried out by the staffs of the various Homes, which in no small measure contributed to their smooth running.

HOMES FOR OLD PEOPLE

(National Assistance Act, Sec. 21(1)(a)).

There are now seven Homes for Old People as follows :—

<i>Name and Address.</i>	<i>Type of Resident.</i>	<i>No. of Residents and Classification</i>		<i>Total Beds occupied at 31st December, 1956.</i>
		<i>(a) Aged</i>	<i>(b) Handicapped</i>	
Charterhouse, London Road, Coventry.	Men	24	6	30
Hawthorn Lodge, Jardine Crescent, Coventry.	Mixed	Men 20	Men NIL	39
		Women 17	Women 2	
		37	2	
Moat House, Wilson's Lane, Exhall.	Men	29	10	39
Newlands House, Bennett's Road, Keresley.	Mixed	Men 14	Men 2	25
		Women 8	Women 1	
		22	3	
Stone House, 65, Birmingham Road, Coventry.	Women	24	5	29
Woodway Grange, Deedmore Road, Walsgrave, Coventry.	Women	23	3	26
Wyken Lodge, Ellacombe Road, Henley Green.	Mixed	Men 21	Men 2	41
		Women 17	Women 1	
		38	3	

Note i. It is intended to make special provision for the handicapped persons shewn herein, as soon as the opportunity arises.

The age distribution of residents of the Homes at the 31st December, 1956, is as shown hereunder :—

<i>Age.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Under 60 years ...	7	8	15
60 to 64 years inclusive ...	4	5	9
65 to 69 „ ...	7	7	14
70 to 74 „ ...	29	20	49
75 to 79 „ ...	38	18	56
80 to 84 „ ...	30	26	56
85 to 89 „ ...	11	12	23
90 and over ...	2	5	7
	128	101	229

The age averages in the various Homes are as follows :—

Charterhouse	74.6 years
Hawthorn Lodge	78.8 „
Moat House	74.8 „
Newlands House	77.2 „
Stone House	74.4 „
Woodway Grange	75.2 „
Wyken Lodge	76.8 „

Average age of men	—	76.0 years
Average age of women	—	76.1 „
Average age of all residents	—	76.05 „

Admissions, and Discharges, etc. during Year ended 31st December, 1956.

				<i>Admissions.</i>	
				<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
From own homes ...	...	...	...	22	41
From Hospital :					
(a) Residents re-admitted	...	...	...	10	11
(b) New cases ...	...	...	...	8	9
				18	20
				—	—
Holiday cases				8	7
				—	—
				48	68
				—	—

Discharges, etc.

				<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
To own homes ...	...	...	...	3	6
To hospital ...	...	...	...	23	26
Holiday cases ...	...	...	...	8	7
Died ...	...	...	...	11	10
				—	—
				45	49
				—	—

At the 31st December, 1956, certain residents for whom the Pensioners Committee have financial responsibilities were maintained in the following areas :—

<i>By Local Authorities.</i>				<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Birmingham County Borough Council	...	...	...	—	1	1
Oldham County Borough Council	...	...	...	1	—	1
Sunderland County Borough Council	...	...	...	1	—	1
Warwickshire County Council	...	...	...	1	—	1
				—	—	—
				3	1	4
				—	—	—

By Voluntary Bodies.

Wicksted Hall Eventide Home, Whitchurch (Salvation Army) ... 2 men.

Accommodation Provided for Other Local Authorities.

Derbyshire County Council 1 man (Moat House)
 Leicestershire County Council 1 woman (Hawthorn Lodge)
 Wolverhampton County Borough Council 1 woman (Wyken Lodge)

RETURN OF PERSONS RESIDENT ON THE NIGHT OF 31st DECEMBER, 1956, IN ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED UNDER PART III OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 21 (1) (a)

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

Description of persons	PERSONS (EXCLUSIVE OF STAFF) RESIDING IN:										No. of persons included in cols. 1 to 4 for whose maintenance other local authorities are responsible (6)	No. of persons (not included in cols. 1 to 4) accommodated by other local authorities for whose maintenance the Council are responsible (7)	
	Former Workhouses			Other premises managed by the Council (3)		Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations (4)		Total (cols. 1-4) (5)					
	Owned by the Council (1)		Vested in the Minister as hospitals (2)										
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
1. Aged but not materially handicapped by infirmity					67	59			67	59	1	3	2
2. Aged and physically or mentally handicapped..					36	28	1		37	28	1		
3. Blind					7	4	5	3	12	7			
4. Deaf or dumb					4			1	4	1			
5. Epileptic					1	1	10	2	11	3			
6. Crippled					5	2	1	2	6	4			
7. Physically infirm (not being aged) ..					5	3	2		7	3		1	
8. Mentally infirm (not being aged) ..					3	4			3	4			
9. TOTAL of ITEMS 1 to 8					128	101	19	8	147	109	1	4	2

OTHER WELFARE PROVISIONS

(Health Committee)

(Section 21(1)(b))

Temporary accommodation is at present provided by the Health Committee by way of a converted industrial hostel block, viz. Block Z.3 of the former Baginton Fields Hostel, and two converted wards at the former London Road Institution. This accommodation comprises :—

Baginton Fields Hostel	—	2 three-bedroom units 4 two-bedroom units 1 one-bedroom unit
London Road Establishment	—	4 two-bedroom flatlets 2 one-bedroom flatlets

There has been acute pressure on the accommodation provided and during one part of the year it was necessary to refuse some applications and refer them to the Children's Department, to secure the well being of the children involved. Thus the necessity of the allocation of accommodation on a room basis, instead of on a unit basis as originally contemplated, has continued. The number of cases housed on the 31st December, 1956, are set out hereunder.

Establishment	Cases in which Council had a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation			Cases in which Council had a permissive power to provide temporary accommodation			Total		
	W.	Ch.	Fams.	W.	Ch.	Fams.	W.	Ch.	Fams.
Block Z3, Baginton Fields Hostel ..	5	11	5	10	27	10	15	38	15
Flats, 11 London Road	5	14	5	1	4	1	6	18	6
TOTALS	10	25	10	11	31	11	21	56	21

The foregoing statistics indicate that a degree of over-crowding in Block Z.3, Baginton Fields Hostel still persists, although this is not as acute as in previous years.

The following summary will help to show the extent of the problem of dealing with temporary accommodation cases :—

**Summary of cases dealt with since the National Assistance Act, 1948,
came into operation on the 5th July, 1948.**

Period	Cases in which Council had a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation				Cases in which Council had a permissive power to provide temporary accommodation				Total			
	M.	W.	Ch.	Fams.	M.	W.	Ch.	Fams.	M.	W.	Ch.	Fams.
5th July, 1948, to 31st Dec., 1948 ..	1	1	1	1	3	10	21	10	4	11	22	11
1st Jan., 1949, to 31st Dec., 1949 ..	9	26	33	26	21	56	87	56	30	82	120	82
1st Jan., 1950, to 31st Dec., 1950 ..	5	17	27	17	1	32	46	32	6	49	73	49
1st Jan., 1951, to 31st Dec., 1951 ..	—	31	56	31	—	17	32	17	—	48	88	48
1st Jan., 1952, to 31st Dec., 1952 ..	—	52	95	52	—	12	28	12	—	64	123	64
1st Jan., 1953, to 31st Dec., 1953 ..	—	38	72	38	—	16	31	16	—	54	103	54
1st Jan., 1954, to 31st Dec., 1954 ..	—	39	75	39	—	17	37	17	—	56	112	56
1st Jan., 1955, to 31st Dec., 1955 ..	—	34	66	34	—	30	77	30	—	64	143	64
1st Jan., 1956, to 31st Dec., 1956..	—	28	43	28	—	22	59	22	—	50	102	50
TOTALS	15	266	468	266	25	212	418	212	40	478	886	478

NOTE 1 The figures submitted for the year ended 31st December, 1956, do not include 4 children born after the admission of their mothers to Part III Accommodation.

NOTE 2 Of the total number of families accommodated the Housing Committee has rehoused the following :

1949—18 families	1953—36 families
1950—50 families	1954—43 families
1951—15 families	1955—56 families
1952—61 families	1956—39 families

NOTE 3 In 1956, 8 families were able to find accommodation for themselves.

In my last report I commented upon the tentative proposal to provide additional temporary accommodation by way of three blocks of sub-standard housing units on the temporary housing site

at Baginton Fields Hostel, in substitution for the present accommodation provided in Block Z.3 and at London Road. Thus, Block Z.3 would be released for use by the Education Committee in their urgently needed school development plan, and the Flats at London Road would be transferred to the Housing Committee.

These proposals, however, did not materialise, due mainly to the fact that the Housing Committee and the Children's Committee, in their joint consideration of problem families, came to the conclusion that the provision of temporary accommodation for this type of case only perpetuates the difficulties encountered in such cases and, if anything, militates against the rehabilitation of the family where this may be possible.

In their consideration of the problem, the Health Committee agreed with the views expressed, since their experience from 1948 has shown that temporary accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act, has only rarely been used for persons who were in urgent need thereof, arising in circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen.

For this reason, it was decided that Block Z.3 cease to be used for temporary accommodation purposes by the 31st March, 1957, and that the Council instruct the Housing Committee to rehouse, in municipal houses, the families at present in occupation and that no other accommodation be provided in substitution for that provided in Block Z.3.

The Council has agreed to this proposal. Thus, the six flatlets at London Road only will be available after the 31st March next for temporary accommodation. Endeavours will be made to restrict their use to persons who are in urgent need of temporary accommodation, in circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen.

RETURN OF PERSONS RESIDENT ON THE NIGHT OF 31st DECEMBER, 1956, IN ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED UNDER PART III OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. SECTION 21 (1) (b)

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Description of persons	PERSONS (EXCLUSIVE OF STAFF) RESIDING IN:										No. of persons included in cols. 1 to 4 for whose maintenance other local authorities are responsible (6)		No. of persons (not included in cols. 1 to 4) accommodated by other local authorities for whose maintenance the Council are responsible (7)	
	Former Workhouses		Other premises managed by the Council (3)		Accommodation provided on behalf of the Council by voluntary organisations (4)		Total (cols. 1-4) (5)							
	Owned by the Council (1)	Vested in the Minister as hospitals (2)	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
	M	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
1. Persons over 16: Evicted														
2. Persons over 16: Others														
3. Total of Items 1 and 2														
4. Children accompanied by persons over 16: Evicted														
5. Children accompanied by persons over 16: Others														
6. Total of Items 4 and 5														

REGISTRATION OF DISABLED AND OLD PERSONS' HOMES

(Sections 37 to 40)

There are on the register four homes—two for the elderly and the other two for disabled (blind) men and women. All four premises have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

Officially provided Homes for children or for the elderly are exempt from registration.

A summary of the Official Register is shown hereunder.

Types of Homes	Homes on the register on the night of 31st December, 1956		Applications for registration refused in 1956
	Number of Homes	Number of residents for whom provision made*	
Home for Old Persons	2	29	Nil
Homes for Disabled Persons	2	30	Nil
Homes for Old Persons and Disabled Persons	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	4	59	Nil

* Exclusive of Staff

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS NEEDING CARE AND ATTENTION

Section 47

During 1956 it was necessary to invoke Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, as amended by Section 1 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, to secure compulsory removal to suitable premises of two aged persons.

The first of the two cases was one of a man of 75 years about whom neighbours had complained to the Police. He was found on investigation to be in a very dirty and neglected state and his house was in an extremely insanitary condition. Moreover, he was confused and had been turning on gas taps but forgetting to light them, so that escaping gas not only had penetrated his cottage but had leaked through to the next house. His doctor did not consider that the man was certifiable as a mental patient.

Endeavours were made by neighbours and friends, by the man's doctor, by members of my staff, as well as by myself, to persuade him to enter an Old People's Home but without avail. It was obvious that the man could not remain at home and it was necessary to invoke the powers of compulsory removal.

Since his admission to the Old People's Home, the man has been willing to remain without an Order to extend the period of his stay. Within approximately three weeks from admission the man gained nearly 14 lbs. in weight.

The second case was that of a woman of 78 years, who was living the life of a recluse in extremely bad conditions. She had eight or more cats in the house, made no attempt to keep the house clean and was herself in a very dirty and neglected state. The case was brought to the Department's notice in the first instance by the Police.

The woman was, and still is, mentally confused, and at no time was willing to leave her home for more suitable premises, despite strong endeavours made by her own doctor, my Deputy, the Public Health Inspector, and other members of my staff. Because the woman could not possibly continue to live in such appalling conditions it was necessary to invoke the powers of compulsory removal to an Old People's Home.

Since admission, this old lady has been willing to remain without an Order to extend the period of her stay.

There were one or two other cases of persons requiring care and attention who in the first instance refused to avail themselves of such facilities as the department was able to provide or make available, but eventually they were prevailed upon to enter suitable premises, without the necessity of invoking compulsory powers.

WELFARE SERVICES: HANDICAPPED PERSONS (OTHER THAN THE BLIND)

Sections 29 and 30

Further progress has been made during the year in dealing with the Welfare of Handicapped Persons, other than the blind.

On the 31st December, 1956, there was a total of 220 persons registered in accordance with Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. During the year there were 41 new registrations and twelve names removed from the register due to eight deaths, one certification and three removals of residence.

An analysis of the handicapped cases is shewn hereunder—

* Medical Research Council Code.										† Suitability as to employment Ministry of Health Circular 32/51.	
A/E	F	G	H/L	Q/T	V	U/W	X	Y	Z		
9	1	6	3	5	26			3		A	53
1	1	2	2	1	10					B	17
	1	1			3		1			C	6
8	33	3	5	8	30	1	4	2		D	144
18	36	12	10	14	119	1	5	5		Total	220

*A/E Amputation.

F Arthritis and rheumatism.

G Congenital malformations and deformities.

H/L Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems, heart or circulatory system, respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and skin.

Q/T Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or disease (other than tuberculosis) of the upper/lower limbs and spine.

V Organic nervous diseases.

U/W Neurosis.

X Tuberculosis (respiratory).

Y Tuberculosis (non-respiratory).

Z Diseases and injuries not specified above.

†A Handicapped persons (other than children) who though possibly needing training are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions.

B Handicapped persons (other than children) who are mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops.

C Handicapped persons (other than children) who are capable of work at home.

D Handicapped persons (other than children) not available for work.

Throughout the year almost 2,000 visits have been made to, or in connection with handicapped persons, and immediate problems have been dealt with wherever possible.

Assistance to handicapped persons has been afforded in the following :—

Employment, training, rehabilitation, housing, residential accommodation, provision of gift clothing, furniture, outings, arranging holidays and advice on personal problems, etc.

Again during the year great care has been taken to ensure that handicapped persons are aware of, and avail themselves of both social and medical services to which they are entitled, particularly in relation to the various appliances supplied under the National Health Service Scheme.

Where necessary cases have been referred to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and the National Assistance Board, and various voluntary organisations for special or specific services, and I am pleased to record once again the excellent relationship between my Department and the above bodies.

For the past eighteen months a member of the welfare staff has worked very closely with the Enterprise Club for Disabled Persons and is now serving as Honorary Secretary for the Club. In connection with holiday arrangements, the Department is very grateful for the active co-operation the National Association for the Paralysed has given in making suitable holiday arrangements for some of the more severely disabled in Coventry.

Cerebral Palsy.

The Coventry and District Spastic Society has once again assisted the Department in ascertaining as far as possible all known cerebral palsy sufferers resident in the City. An analysis of the position as at 31st December, 1956, shows the number of known cases in the City to be 106, an increase of eight cases over the previous year. Classification of these 106 cases is shown hereunder :—

Age Group	Baginton Fields Special School	Normal School	Sec. Selective School	Home Tuition	Dom. Sup. by Mental Health Section	Occupational Centre	Open Employment	Sheltered Employment	Ponds Homes for Young Spastics	St. Margaret's	Highcroft Hall	At Home	Royal Midland Counties Home	Care of Local Authority	David Lewis Epileptic Colony	Training	Bramcote	Residential School	Totals
0-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
5-7	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	11
7-11	15	...	...	1	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	24
11-16	10	7	1	...	4	3	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	30
16-21	...	...	...	...	3	2	5	...	2	3	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	21
21-31	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	9
31-41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
41-51	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
51+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total	34	7	1	1	12	7	11	1	2	5	1	15	1	2	1	2	1	2	106

Epilepsy.

With the co-operation of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, it has been possible to prepare the analysis shown hereunder of known cases resident in the City at the end of 1956—

Accommodated	Male	Female	Totals
Epileptic Colony	9	2	11
At home and registered with the Ministry of Labour for employment ...	*45	*20	65
At home and not available for employment	5	5	10
Other Residential Accommodation	1	—	1
Totals ...	60	27	87

* These figures, which have been checked with the Ministry of Labour and National Service are the latest available. All other figures relate to the 31st December, 1956.

In connection with the problem of epilepsy, attempts have been made to form a branch of the British Epilepsy Association in Coventry but, unfortunately, this was unsuccessful due to the reluctance of persons suffering from epilepsy to come forward to participate in public activities of this nature.

The Deaf and the Partially Deaf.

The welfare of the deaf and the partially deaf is undertaken in collaboration with the Warwickshire County Council, through agency agreement with the Coventry and Warwickshire Association for the Deaf. The Health Committee is represented on the Joint Controlling Committee by three of its members and the Medical Officer of Health.

The Chaplain and Welfare Officer's report for the year 1956 is given hereunder, and I am grateful to him for his kind assistance.

On the 31st December, 1956, there was a total of 183 deaf and 81 partially deaf persons resident in Coventry and registered with the Association.

An analysis of the deaf and partially deaf, as far as it relates to Coventry, is set out as follows :—

Description	Sex	AGE GROUPS			
		1-16 years	16-64 years	65+ years	Total
Deaf	M	15	64	9	88
	F	24	62	9	95
Partially Deaf	M	26	19	—	45
	F	17	16	3	36
Totals		82	161	21	264

NOTE : Those in the "Partially Deaf" group include :—

- (i) those who have attended or are attending special schools for the partially deaf, and
- (ii) those attending ordinary schools with an aural aid with 40—60 decibel hearing loss.

Throughout the year a total of 475 visits were made, of which 350 were domiciliary, 76 to the sick and 49 to the deaf in hospital and Part III Accommodation. Additionally 38 placings in industry were effected and 27 special welfare cases were dealt with.

Assistance to the deaf and partially deaf has been afforded in the following :—

Placement in employment, pastoral care, including moral welfare supervision, transport, holidays, outings, interpretation (court, medical and hospital), social and sports activities, including drama, admission to residential accommodation and personal advice, etc.

Close co-operation is maintained between the audiometric department of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital and the staff of the Association.

Where necessary, cases are referred to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, the National Assistance Board and the Ministry of Labour and National Service. In this connection, it cannot be too strongly stressed the importance of having a qualified Welfare Officer for the deaf to assist in these negotiations.

In consideration of their services to the Local Authority, a substantial donation is made to the Association and in addition a further small grant was made in 1956 to help cover the cost of sending 7 elderly deaf persons on a week's holiday.

The Chaplain Welfare Officer is assisted in his work by a Trainee Assistant Welfare Officer.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

Much progress has been made in connection with the welfare of old people, since the issue of the fourth report of the Policy Advisory Committee on the survey of organisation and methods undertaken by the O. and M. Division of H.M. Treasury. It was suggested that appropriate Committees consider what more could be done in the nature of "preventive" work, to improve the conditions of old people and lessen the demand for accommodation in Old People's Homes.

An Assistant Welfare Officer has been appointed and is acting as a medium of direct liaison between appropriate voluntary bodies concerned with the welfare of old people. It has been possible to carry out a survey of the activities of the Ward Old People's Welfare Committees, which has disclosed the need for further voluntary effort on behalf of old people in some parts of the City. I am particularly anxious to see a visiting service organised on a sound basis in each Ward, since it is mainly through visitation that the needs of old people are brought to light. This is a matter to which we are directing our attention, in order that the appropriate services can be invoked to mitigate or ameliorate the conditions under which old people are living, and in order that we can provide for a far greater range of old people than is at present possible.

Apart from this, visitation in itself fulfils a very useful purpose. Many old people are worried by a sense of loneliness, which in many instances can be dispelled by regular visitation.

Apart from the foregoing, the Department has given, and is giving considerable assistance in providing social and other amenities for old people, which includes affording active help in the formation and subsequent running of the Golden Years' Club for Old People, which is now firmly established, and also in the operation of the Chiropody Service for old people, sponsored by the Central Committee for Old People's Welfare, which has had generous financial assistance from the King George Sixth Memorial Fund (through the good offices of the National Corporation for the Care of Old People) and through the Cinema Charities Fund (through the kindness of the Watch Committee).

Further, strong representations to the Ministry of Health to provide officially a chiropody service free of charge to necessitous old people, proved, I regret to say, abortive. Experience of the existing voluntary service has emphasised the need for chiropody treatment to be available for necessitous old people, without restriction on financial grounds.

MISCELLANEOUS WELFARE SERVICES

Apart from the statutory duties imposed upon the Council in relation to handicapped persons, assistance and advice have been given in social problems, particularly where aged, infirm and sick have been concerned : and the staff have generally interested themselves in the welfare of the aged.

Hospital admissions have been arranged, claims for pensions, supplementary pensions, etc., have been prepared for those unable themselves to complete the necessary forms; action has been taken to safeguard property of persons admitted to hospital; furniture has been transported for Part III National Assistance Act accommodation cases as well as for hospital cases. Several applications have been made to the Court of Protection for the appointment of a Receiver to manage the affairs of patients unable to do so for themselves.

Arrangements have been made with the National Assistance Board to afford assistance to necessitous cases whose straitened circumstances have been brought to light by the department and employment has also been found for a number of persons.

The following figures relating to cases referred to the department by letter or telephone, as distinct from personal applications and those for temporary accommodation, visited and investigated during the period 1st January, 1956, to 31st December, 1956 (increases of approximately 25 per cent. in visits and 13 per cent. in cases on the figures for 1955) will give some indication as to the nature of the work undertaken—

Subject of Visits	Admissions to Homes	Admissions to Hospital	Mobile Meals	General Welfare	Others	Total	
						Visits	Cases
Number of Visits made	214	73	236	418	63	1004	685

I am greatly indebted to my senior staff in the general welfare section of the department for their enthusiasm in connection with their work, and for much helpful information contained in the foregoing pages.

I am also pleased to record my thanks to other sections of the department, *i.e.*, Home Helps, Home Nurses, and Health Visitors, each of which either directly or by helpful liaison is making its considerable contribution to the care of the aged and infirm.

WELFARE SERVICES—BLIND PERSONS

Section 29

The care and welfare of blind persons comes within the scope of Section 29 of the National Assistance Act and of the Council's approved scheme. The staff designated for this work in the Health Department include two home teachers for the blind.

The teachers continue to be occupied in training those blind persons who can benefit from their teaching, and this includes Braille, Moon, and also simple handicrafts. They also give all possible assistance in the welfare of the blind and their advice and guidance is much in demand.

Our blind friends still have their regular meetings at the Welfare Centre, Gulson Road, and they much look forward to this. The ladies are occupied in handicrafts and discussions, and indeed upon household problems with which they have to contend from week to week, while the men enjoy light recreation such as domino matches. The annual outing, towards which all had contributed, took place at Barmouth, and a half day tour round the Cotswolds was also arranged in September. Both outings gave much pleasure to the blind persons concerned.

Tickets given by different theatre companies in the city to blind throughout the year have been very much appreciated, and they have thereby been enabled to spend many happy evenings together.

During the year a motor coach outing to Droitwich was arranged through the Health Committee for all blind persons in the city. The parties had a most enjoyable tea at the Chateau Impney, near Droitwich. Blind persons were accompanied by their guides and a total of 420 took advantage of the much appreciated outing.

A Christmas party, also arranged through the Health Committee, was held at the Hotel Leofric and 400 blind and their guides attended. The entertainment was organised by Mr. Anthony Bladon and his pupils: their voluntary services were greatly appreciated by all.

Financial assistance continues to be rendered to those blind persons who are in need of it through the National Assistance Board; this has been the arrangement since 5th July, 1948.

The register of blind persons as at December, 1956, gives the following details of all blind persons registered in the city:—

Age Groupings of Registered Blind Persons

AGE PERIOD	M	F	TOTAL
0—1	—	—	—
2—4	4	4	8
5—15	6	5	11
16—20	3	2	5
21—39	23	16	39
40—49	21	18	39
50—64	39	41	80
65—69	19	19	38
70 & over	106	187	293
Unknown	—	—	—
TOTAL	221	292	513

Incidence of Blindness Ages at which Blindness occurred.

AGE PERIOD	M.	F.	TOTAL
0—1	22	18	40
2—4	—	3	3
5—15	8	7	15
16—20	6	4	10
21—39	30	22	52
40—49	27	18	45
50—64	44	61	105
65—69	20	33	53
70 & over	64	125	189
Unknown	—	1	1
TOTAL	221	292	513

There are 14 blind home workers engaged in the city under the scheme organised by the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. These are employed in various trades and all receive a standard augmentation of wages on an agreed scale.

THE PARTIALLY SIGHTED

The register of partially sighted in the city at December 31st, 1956, shows the following details :—

I. Partially Sighted in Age Groups.

Age Groups	0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-49	50-64	65+	TOTAL
Males	—	—	23	1	8	1	10	43
Females	—	—	13	3	6	3	14	39

II. Partially Sighted in Ages at which Handicap Occurred.

Age Groups	0-1	2-4	5-15	16-20	21-49	50-64	65+	TOTAL
Males	23	—	—	—	4	2	9	43
Females	19	—	2	—	4	4	10	39

During the year 73 persons have been notified, 63 as blind and 10 as partially sighted and an enquiry into the causes of the disability is summarised in the following table.

Enquiry into causation of Blindness or Partial Blindness.

	Cause of Disability				
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others	Totals
(i) No. of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F of Form B.D.8 recommends:	28	8	—	37	73
(a) No treatment ...	15	—	—	17	32
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical) ...	13	8	—	20	41
(ii) No. of cases at i) (b) above which on follow up action have received treatment ...	9	8	—	20	37

B. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

- (i) Total number of cases notified during the year 6
- (ii) Number of cases in which :
- (a) Vision was affected Nil

No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were referred for inclusion on the registers either as blind or partially sighted.

The enthusiasm of the blind home teachers in their day to day work is greatly appreciated by the blind citizens, and I am much impressed by the care and attention which they bring to their work.

BURIALS**Section 50**

During the year the Health Department accepted responsibility for the burial of the bodies of 17 persons who died or were found dead and in regard to whom no other suitable arrangements had been made.

HOSPITALS

The hospitals and annexes in the city under the control of the Hospital Management Committee (Group 20) of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board remain as follows :—

The Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital
 Gulson Hospital
 Whitley Hospital
 Paybody Orthopædic Home
 Allesley Hall Annexe

The Board issues its own printed report.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer and Manager for the following information as to the City's water supply :—

Houses with water supply laid on	...	...	...	82,806
Houses supplied by standpipe or similar means	...	...	...	1,169
Population supplied direct	...	...	...	279,467
Population obtaining mains supply by stand-pipe or other means (not direct)	...	...	...	4,091
Total population supplied	...	...	...	283,558

The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality for all essential purposes.

The appendix given below contains information as to the frequency of bacteriological and chemical examinations of water from the various sources of supply.

The waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

No special action has been necessary to meet any contamination of underground sources of supply. Chlorinating equipment is installed at all Pumping Stations for emergency use.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES

	<i>Samples from</i>	<i>Frequency of Examination</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>
Bacteriological Examinations	All underground supplies	Twice weekly	Undertaking's own Laboratory
		Fortnightly	Coventry Public Health Laboratory
	Strensham	Treated water Daily	Undertaking's own Laboratory
		All stages weekly including inlet and outlet—Bredon Reservoir Delivery at Meriden Twice weekly	
Chemical Examinations	Distribution System. Existing mains New & repaired mains.	6 samples each week	Undertaking's own Laboratory
		As required	
	All underground supplies	Fortnightly	Coventry Corporation Laboratory and Undertaking's Own Laboratory
		Full chemical and mineral periodically	Undertaking's own Laboratory
	Strensham	<i>Daily</i> Treated water all stages — partial chemical analysis	Undertaking's own Laboratory
		<i>Weekly</i> Full analysis sampled at Meriden	Undertaking's own Laboratory
		Partial chemical Fortnightly sampled at Meriden	As for Under-ground supplies

COVENTRY CREMATORIUM

The Canley Crematorium, which is owned and operated by the Parks and Cemeteries Department of the Corporation, continued efficiently to fulfil its role in the hygienic disposal of the dead. The Medical Officer of Health as Medical Referee has the assistance of the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and one of his senior Medical Officers as Deputy Medical Referees.

The figures for 1956 which show an increase over preceding years, were as follows :—

	1956.	1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.	1947.
Total cremations	1,651	1,563	1,394	1,250	1,105	532
Coventry residents	735	845	678	702	658	—
Residents of other areas	916	718	716	548	447	—

It is again the fact that for 1956 the number of cremations taking place at the Coventry Crematorium outnumbered (as in 1955) the number of burials occurring in the city.

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS

Medical Examinations for Superannuation purposes, initial entry into Corporation Service, Prolonged Sickness, Retirement, etc.; commenced in the Health Department on 10th November, 1952, and from that date onwards, 4,781 examinations have been carried out by the Departmental Medical Staff as follows :—

	11.11.52 to 31.12 53	1954	1955	1956	TOTALS
SUPERANNUATION SCHEME.					
Entrance into Superannuation Scheme	335	360	534	606	1,835
Prolonged sickness or retirement	30	34	29	23	116
Fitness to resume work ...	11	27	8	31	77
NON-SUPERANNUATION.					
Initial entrance examination to Transport Department ...	574	577	640	484	2,275
Prolonged sickness or retirement	42	23	11	5	81
Routine re-examinations ...	31	50	27	43	151
FIRE SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.					
Admission to Fire Service Pensions Scheme	48	99	9	20	170
Prolonged sickness or retirement	4	5	1	3	13
Other medical examinations for non-superannuated posts, etc.	1	10	17	18	46
SUNDRY.					
Sundry and other examinations for non-superannuated posts in Corporation Service	2	2	9	4	17
TOTALS	1,078	1,181	1 285	1,237	4,781

STAFF CHANGES

The staff record shows the following changes during 1956 :—
Left the Service :—

2 Assistant Medical Officers; 1 Locum Medical Officer; 2 Health Visitors; 1 School Nurse and 2 Temporary School Nurses; 1 Inspector of Meat and 2 District Inspectors; 1 Municipal Midwife; and 1 Occupation Centre Supervisor.

Joined the Department :—

2 Locum Medical Officers; 5 Health Visitors; 1 Tuberculosis Visitor; 2 Student Health Visitors and 3 Temporary School Nurses; 1 Municipal Midwife; 1 District Inspector; 2 Student Inspectors and 1 Assistant Housing Inspector; 1 Occupation Centre Supervisor and 1 Home Nursing Assistant Superintendent.

A number of changes took place in the clerical staff, and one male junior clerk returned from, and another one went for, national service.

Several changes occurred in the Day Nursery and in the Home Nursing staffs.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
R. WILLIAMS, O.B.E., D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, E. A. Johnson.
 Senior Food and Drugs Inspector, H. Ellis.
 Senior Meat Inspector, L. Vivian.
 Divisional Inspector (South), T. E. Willmott.
 Divisional Inspector (North), D. C. Norcliffe.
 Senior Housing Inspector, R. D. Hayne.

Although environmental work has been considerably hindered by the continued shortage of public health inspectors, a great deal of improvement has been effected throughout the city. At the year end there were still seven vacancies in the inspectorate out of an establishment of 24, which represents almost a third of the entire staff. In an effort to overcome the national shortage of inspectors, students are being trained within the department, the first of these has now qualified; in 1959 another three are expected to qualify, to be followed in 1960 by a further three students qualifying. Meanwhile, there are aspects of our work which have to be carried out in a far more sketchy manner than is desirable. Slum clearance work has quickened in tempo, and the visual results of action taken in this connection should soon be apparent. In addition, many individual unfit houses are being tackled and either closed or demolished.

Supervision of food premises and food handling has occupied a large amount of the time of food and drug inspectors, and here again it is considered that it will be some time before the full results of the detailed work of the inspectorate will be seen in the form of improved food premises and hygienic standards. It is encouraging to find that the public are taking a great interest in the question of clean food. Public opinion here, as in many other spheres, has a vital part to play in the raising of the conditions under which food is prepared, sold or delivered.

At the Public Abattoir there has been a continued increase in the number of animals slaughtered, some 180,000 being dealt with, representing in money approximately three million pounds. The one hundred per cent meat inspection service which has been provided has been possible only at the expense of other work. As the food and drugs inspectors have been drawn upon to a large extent to supplement the meat inspectors in their work at the Abattoir, naturally the normal sampling of food and drugs has therefore declined during the year. In addition to the food and drug inspectors, the district inspectors have also been called upon to carry out relief meat inspection duties. While this too has reduced the amount of inspector man hours available for ordinary district work, the use of cars by the inspectorate has to some extent offset what would otherwise be a serious time lag in dealing with complaints.

Complaints during the year totalled 5,741, which is a decrease of about 1,000 on the previous year. However, in the three years ending 1955, complaints had shown a steady increase and it is thought that the provision of cars mentioned above has helped to eliminate some of the causes of complaint while the continued housing work does, through slum clearance, abolish conditions about which tenants of such houses would complain. In Coventry during 1956 one family in 13 sought the assistance of the department on environmental matters. In the city with so many women out at work there has been an understandable increase in the number of visits inspectors have to make in order to check the remedial action taken to abate nuisances. This accounts for the high number of visits and revisits necessary to deal with complaints referred to above. There were 36,684 visits and revisits made by the inspectors and averages about 6.5 visits per complaint. The office or paper work involved in dealing with these matters included the service of 1,856 notices on public health matters followed by 600 statutory notices, 121 food and drug notices and 31 notices under the Factories Act. It was necessary in only nine instances to take court action, and as this figure represents less than 2% of the statutory notices served it is safe to say that in general terms the inspectorate is able to count upon fairly prompt action in the abatement of conditions for which statutory action could be taken.

Noise continues to be one of the more difficult environmental conditions to remedy; nevertheless, progress has been made and the general level of nuisance from this source reduced. Despite this there remain a number of serious noise problems to be tackled. A recent High Court decision may be the means of providing a further course of action open to the Council which could result in enforcing more effective control of what is today one of the results of a mechanical age. American sources of research have shown that noise has a serious effect on man's general efficiency, and a great deal of investigation is at the present time being carried out in Coventry with a view to reducing noise to a level which could be tolerated by most people.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the other officers of the Corporation for their ready advice and assistance; to the inspectors and clerical staff for their loyalty and continued hard work throughout the year.

WORK OF THE DISTRICT INSPECTORS

	Dec. 1955.	Dec. 1956.
DRAINAGE AND PAVEMENT.		
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	1,010	978
Drains provided with efficient traps	9	—
New Drains, inspection and intercepting chambers provided	11	74
Drains relaid or repaired	77	218
Soil pipes and ventilating shafts improved or repaired	50	51
Rain water pipes disconnected from the sewer	—	—
Courts and back yards paved and repaired	6	13
Sink drains disconnected from the sewer	7	1
DWELLINGS.		
Floors of dwellings relaid or repaired	142	149
Dilapidated walls and ceilings repaired	156	175
Damp walls—Damp courses inserted	53	34
Repainted or cement rendered	232	164
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	406	259
Dangerous stairs repaired	10	16
Additional windows provided and others repaired and made to open	239	203
Defective guttering repaired	304	231
Houses provided with food stores	2	24
Existing pantries provided with external ventilation ...	—	—
Sculleries provided or reconstructed or enlarged ...	2	—
Wash houses provided	—	—
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	—	73
New sinks provided	20	24
Foul cellars cleansed and defects in drains remedied	—	—
Houses limewashed and cleansed	—	—
Houses cleansed after infectious disease	—	—
Verminous houses and furniture disinfested	212	110
Additional water closets provided	25	18
Water closets reconstructed	11	17
Water closets repaired and limewashed	19	—
Water closets provided with new pedestals	129	201
Water closet pans replaced with pedestals	—	—
Defective joints in flush pipes repaired	127	74
Foul water closet basins and traps cleansed	7	—
Defective water closet cisterns repaired	163	209
New flushing cisterns provided	33	85
Urinals cleansed and reconstructed	—	—
Urinals abolished	—	—
PRIVIES, CESSPOOLS, ASHPITS AND DUSTBINS.		
Cesspools abolished	4	2
Offensive privies or pail closets converted into water closets	1	6
Offensive privies or pail closets abolished	4	—
New water closets erected in place of above	6	—
Houses provided with sanitary dustbins	186	123
VARIOUS.		
Nuisances from animals kept abated	1	—
Offensive accumulations removed	202	87
Courts and backyards cleansed by tenants	—	—
Gipsy tents and caravans removed	1	25
Dairies reconstructed or improved	—	—
Water supply—additional taps provided	5	2
Polluted wells dispensed with	—	—
Town water supplied in place of well water	—	—
Offensive ditches cleansed	10	2
Miscellaneous	583	1,224
Improvements effected at factories	107	37
Improvements effected at shops and food premises ...	1	268
	<hr/> 4,678	<hr/> 5,177

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION WORK

IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF NUISANCES FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

99

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Totals.
No. of drains opened and cleansed from obstruction...	1913	1541	1380	1632	1407	977	1139	975	1010	978	12,952
drains provided with efficient traps ...	30	77	45	41	46	18	1	5	9	—	272
new drains provided to premises ...	45	113	93	70	97	54	175	234	77	160	1,118
sink drains disconnected from the sewer ...	3	1	1	2	12	8	1	2	7	1	38
floors and walls of houses repaired ...	1525	1368	1392	1059	1068	912	810	579	583	347	9,643
new sinks provided and others repaired ...	47	77	54	31	52	40	6	—	20	24	351
roofs of houses repaired and made weatherproof ...	895	752	574	472	468	390	434	282	406	259	4,932
defective spouts repaired ...	424	427	385	295	389	390	535	372	304	231	3,752
houses limewashed and cleansed ...	23	18	19	2	7	7	—	—	—	—	76
houses cleansed after infectious disease ...	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	11
offensive privies or pail closets converted into water closets ...	15	40	17	33	31	17	38	—	1	6	198
offensive privies or pail closets abolished ...	3	9	17	13	14	8	28	5	4	—	101
new water closets erected in place of above ...	1	9	20	13	14	8	27	5	6	—	103
additional new water closets provided ...	2	18	33	15	25	29	59	186	25	18	410
water closets provided with new cisterns ...	76	88	84	66	81	70	15	13	33	85	611
" " " pedestal pans ...	368	358	222	166	181	136	109	134	129	201	2,004
foul water closet drains cleansed ...	19	26	19	11	12	14	8	3	7	3	122
defective water closet cisterns, etc., repaired ...	239	212	321	152	202	159	213	256	163	209	2,126
sanitary dustbins provided to other premises ...	568	504	385	271	184	35	40	149	181	123	2,440
urinals cleansed, repaired and reconstructed ...	7	3	8	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	22
courts and backyards paved and repaired ...	21	69	41	32	42	12	44	27	6	13	307
nuisances from animals kept, abated ...	23	22	29	31	12	41	18	10	1	—	187
offensive accumulations removed ...	249	206	240	406	122	91	144	97	202	87	1,844
cases of overcrowding dealt with ...	60	84	56	—	14	—	8	2	—	—	224
miscellaneous sanitary improvements effected...	2431	2579	2908	2691	2675	2144	1876	1310	1139	2130	21,883
	8,997	8,601	8,343	7,505	7,157	5,562	5,728	4,646	4,313	4,875	65,727

Summary of other Miscellaneous Work
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of visits and revisits to premises ...	41309	42860	44251	50673	58851	45825	36988	33080	33785	36684
" drains tested ...	207	365	434	416	391	306	217	111	291	832
" visits respecting infectious diseases ...	560	635	373	407	632	560	446	194	312	1486
" notices issued for abatement of nuisances including informal and statutory ...	3950	3275	2973	2196	2066	1675	2089	1942	2030	1856
" statutory notices not complied with at the close of the year ...	6	7	8	6	20	16	35	88	54	113
" summonses issued for non-compliance with notices served to abate nuisances ...	1	2	—	1	10	12	9	12	11	9
" registered premises under supervision ...	2180	2345	2529	2438	2644	2813	3519	3035	3107	2907
" visits paid to registered premises ...	2216	4345	5435	8265	9201	10410	3030	2658	3115	1505
" reference to other Departments ...	1134	1076	1592	1105	1361	1656	1341	5857	6838	5452

ABOLITION OF CESSPOOLS—DRAINAGE

In addition to the main trunk sewers provided in the Walsgrave and Hawkesbury districts, the benefits from which were reported upon in previous annual reports, the sewerage needs of Canley Gardens received attention during the year under review. In this connection a major scheme was completed by the year end whereby a public sewer was made available for some eighty dwelling houses at present draining into cesspools. Moreover many plots of land in these gardens formerly with no more than allotment value have now become attractive to the house-owning resident. Private house building in this garden suburb has made rapid strides since the advent of sewerage facilities. Plans are well in hand for the abolition of the cesspools to existing properties. It can be said that property owners in the gardens welcome the opportunity of abolishing the insanitary conditions to which the cesspools have so often in the past given rise.

The outlying districts of the city where the conservancy system of sewage disposal was predominant have one by one been urbanised. A health environment in keeping with all the requirements of modern sanitation is now the rule rather than the exception in all but two of the districts. These are comparatively isolated areas in Westwood Heath and Wyken, where dwelling houses are few, and no development has taken place since their inclusion in the city twenty-five years ago. Planning and economic considerations dispel any possibility of further public health progress in these areas in the foreseeable future. The former is within the environs of the city's green belt, while the latter is sandwiched between two canals.

The efforts of the inspectorate in this field of environmental hygiene have been directed towards the achievement of "the greatest good for the greatest number" in the shortest time.

SANITARY PROVISION AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

The estimated number of sanitary conveniences, privies and cesspools existing at the close of the year is shown below :—

	<i>December 1955.</i>	<i>December 1956.</i>
No. of water closets in houses, institutions, schools, factories, etc. ...	111,099	114,646
No. of privy closets	75	75
No. of pail closets	255	249
No. of cesspools	334	331

Refuse collection and disposal are carried out under the direction of the City Engineer. Most of the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, the remainder being destroyed by incineration at the City's refuse destructor. The quantity of refuse collected during the year was 76,038 tons; of this quantity 17,195 tons were disposed of by incineration and 58,843 tons disposed of by controlled tipping.

The progress achieved during the year included the abolition of six privy or pail closets for which six waterclosets connected to the main drainage system were provided. Three cesspools were also abolished.

DUSTBINS

The provision of dustbins to private dwelling houses is effected through the discretionary powers contained in Section 75 (i) of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 8 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

During the year 94 statutory notices were served upon owners of dwelling houses in respect to the provision of adequate dustbins for the proper storage of domestic refuse. None were served upon occupiers for that purpose during the period under review.

Dustbins were supplied by the local authority in default of the owner in eight instances only.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

The public health inspectorate dealt with 110 cases of vermin infestation during the year. This represented a decrease of 48 per cent on the number of infestations dealt with during 1955. The bed bug was the pest requiring most attention and complete disinfection was carried out in each instance. The insecticides used by the Department contain D.D.T. and Gammexane in liquid form or generated as a residual smoke. The human flea (*Pulex irritans*) also called for some attention and was effectively treated.

There was a marked increase in the demand for the services of the inspectorate to deal with infestations of insect pests other than the bed bug and flea. These included cockroaches, ants, wasps, crickets and flies. No less than 240 infestations were treated during the period under review. Much attention was given to the incidence of the German cockroach (steam fly) found to be infesting canteen food kitchens, and successful treatments were carried out in several instances. Liquid insecticides and dusting powders containing D.D.T. were effectual in all cases.

PIG KEEPING

No applications were received during the year from persons proposing to keep pigs in private or allotment gardens. Forty-two inspections of existing pig keepers' premises were made by the inspectorial staff.

Private pig keepers are given every encouragement to avail themselves of the up-to-date slaughtering facilities at the public abattoir. Several cottagers pigs were prepared for food during the year through the facilities so offered.

REFERENCES TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS

It is always a pleasant duty to place on record the cordial relations which exist between the various departments and the public health inspectorate in connection with the many and varied references necessary for the proper administration of the sanitary services.

A total of 881 references was made during the year to the City Engineer, Water Engineer, Housing, Parks, Education Departments, and the Estates Surveyor, City Architect, Children's Officer and Welfare and Pensioners' Service. In addition to the above, searches were made in respect to 4,571 properties for the Town Clerk's Department under the Land Charges Act, 1925.

New Legislation necessitated many forms and other stationery and a special word of thanks is due to the Printing and Stationery Department for the expeditious and efficient manner in which these needs were met.

HOUSING

The year was an eventful one in the sphere of the City's slum clearance projects embodied in the five years' programme. The programme was launched with the submission of 13 Clearance Orders, representing a total of 155 unfit dwelling houses, to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

One Compulsory Purchase Order was made under the relevant provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect to 19 unfit properties. Confirmation of this Order was received before the year ended.

Thirteen "Individual Demolition Orders" were made relating to dwelling houses which could not be rendered fit for habitation at reasonable expense.

A total of 115 dwelling houses qualified for grant under Part II of the Housing Act, 1949. The building work entailed in the improvements was inspected and passed and the full amount in grants made to the applicants was £13,691.

The improvement grant clauses were instrumental in the provision of 79 bathrooms and 94 hot water installations to dwelling houses which had not previously enjoyed these facilities.

Twenty-three certificates of disrepair were granted under the rent increase clauses of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Six certificates of revocation were also granted.

The detailed inspection and recording of 266 houses for Housing Act purposes was accomplished this year. One "Individual Demolition Order" was the subject of an appeal to the county court by the owner. The order was made by the Health Committee on a single storey, one room brick building, occupied as a dwelling house and situated in the grounds of a larger, self-contained dwelling house. The owner of the one room shack, who lived as a tenant in the large dwelling house, appealed against the Demolition Order on the grounds that the "Chalet" was not a dwelling house, but a bed-sitting room forming part of the main building; that the water supply, water closet, drain, food storage and sink at the house was provided for and always accessible to the occupants of the "Chalet"; that the occupants took meals in the house and only retired to the Chalet as one would retire to a bedroom or private room in a hotel. Evidence was given at length

to prove these points but the Judge ruled that the Chalet was a dwelling house within the meaning of the Housing Acts and dismissed the appeal, awarding costs to the Corporation.

The maintenance and repair of habitable dwelling houses through the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1936, received particular attention throughout the year. In this connection 3,912 repairs and improvements were effected for the abatement of nuisances associated with housing conditions.. At times the powers of the Housing Acts are apt to overshadow the continuous work achieved under the provisions of the more general powers of the Public Health Act, 1936. It should be recognised that this latter enactment is an invaluable one in obtaining the abolition of housing defects often, for a number of reasons, outside the scope of the Housing Acts.

HOUSING STATISTICS YEAR, 1956

The following information is given in the form required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government :—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-----|------|
| 1.(a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | ... | 1769 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | 4886 |
| 2.(a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead 1, above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | ... | 754 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | 1730 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | 266 |
| 4. | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | 687 |

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	368
Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil.

The City Engineer kindly gives the following information concerning new houses :—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (a) Number of new houses erected during the year, Total | 3485 |
| (b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts :— | |
| (1) By Local Authority | 1919 |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | 1566 |
| (c) Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1933 | Nil. |

REHOUSING

Number of applicants on waiting list 1.1.56	7076
Number of applicants on waiting list 31.12.56 (after revision 1874 applications removed)	6116
Number in Category "A" (First Priority)	1
Number in Category "B" (Second Priority)	555
Number in Category "C" (Third Priority)	4058
Number in Category "D" (Fourth Priority)	1502
Number of families rehoused by end of 1956	2025
From Category "A" (First Priority)	30
From Category "B" (Second Priority)	931
From Category "C" (Third Priority)	925
From Category "D" (Fourth Priority)	139
Number of applications for Corporation houses made during the year 1956	2939
Number of houses erected by the Corporation during 1956	1919
Number of houses voluntarily closed	43
Number of houses demolished	36
Number of families rehoused as a result of representations by the Health Department	86

Action under Statutory powers during the year

- A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
 2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1256
 2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 318
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1
- C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 13
 2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 4
- D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

CARAVANS, FAIRS AND CAMPING SITES

One licence was granted under Section 269 (ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936, to station and use a caravan for a limited period, subject to licence conditions.

Two licences were granted under Section 269 (i) of the Act permitting the extension of existing sites for the accommodation of seventeen additional moveable dwellings in one instance and four additional moveable dwellings in another.

Three trailer type caravans, for which licences had previously been granted permitting them to be stationed and used for limited periods, were removed during the year and the licences cancelled.

The control achieved over the local caravan population by means of the licencing provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, supported by a determined policy of the Health Committee was maintained. Unauthorised occupation of land as sites for moveable dwellings was further reduced and the movement of caravans into the city from other parts of the country was negligible.

The allocation of housing accommodation by the Housing Committee was instrumental in securing the removal of 25 caravans from licenced sites. Some of these had passed their usefulness and were broken up.

A total of 144 families living in moveable dwellings in the city were provided with Corporation housing accommodation by the year end.

With the completion of more and more municipally owned dwelling houses to meet the local demand it is encouraging to note that the caravan dwellers are receiving a fair proportion of housing accommodation. There are more than 600 inhabited moveable dwellings sited in various parts of the city. The acceleration in new house building will help materially in relieving Coventry's caravan problem. Even so, it is anticipated that this post-war expedient adopted by so many families without a home of their own will require the attention of the inspectorate for some years to come.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS

There is one Common Lodging House in the city under the control of the Men's Social Section of the Salvation Army. The extensive scheme of repair and reconstruction for the improvement of the men's living condition was brought to completion during the year. The capacity of the hostel is now reduced to more manageable proportions. A new dining room and food preparing kitchen are provided. New ablution blocks and sanitary conveniences were constructed and reconditioning of existing ones has been carried out. Sleeping rooms have been reorganised and in one instance a long bedroom on the first floor converted into a cubicle-type room containing 28 private cubicles. The complete project has put the hostel into first class condition providing a higher standard of

accommodation throughout the establishment. The premises are well conducted and maintained in a clean condition. The nightly average of men seeking lodgings during the year was in excess of 200.

Houses Let in Lodgings:

Number on register January, 1956 ...	...	...	...	8
Number discontinued during the year ...	...	...	...	Nil
Number on register December, 1956 ...	...	...	...	8
Number of visits during the year ...	...	...	...	3
Number of contraventions observed ...	...	...	...	Nil

Offensive Trades.

- 2 Tripe Boilers
- 1 Hide and Skin Dealer
- 1 Rag and Bone Dealer
- 1 Gut scraper
- 2 Tallow melters
- 1 Bone boiler

The hide and skin dealer is located at the public abattoir where tripe dressing is also carried on. Inspections were made of the above premises regularly and a reasonable standard of cleanliness was maintained.

Canal Boats.

During the year 54 visits were made to the canal and the cabins of 24 boats were examined. All the boats met with were found to conform with the Acts and Regulations. The cabins of the boats inspected were occupied by thirteen men, fifteen women, and twenty-seven children.

One case of infectious disease—scarlet fever—was notified during the year and the necessary disinfection of the cabin was carried out.

Other details for the year are as follows :—

Total number of boats registered up to 31st December, 1955	551
Boats added to register in 1956	Nil
Registrations cancelled	328
Actual number of boats on register at 31st December, 1956	223

Vacant Bombed Sites and Waste Land.

In co-operation with the City Engineer and Surveyor and his staff, special attention was given to the many vacant bombed sites and other undeveloped land throughout the city which had become repositories for refuse and litter. A comprehensive survey was made by the inspectorate and those sites needing attention were dealt with appropriately. In this way a total of 47 such sites were cleared of refuse of various kinds. The quantity of dustbin refuse deposited was proportionately very small compared with the more bulky articles of domestic origin which were removed. It is hoped

that in-filling building operations will progressively reduce the number of sites which lend themselves to the practice of refuse dumping.

Brook Courses.

There are several brook courses which traverse the city in addition to the Rivers Sowe and Sherbourne. The attention of the inspectorate is called to these water courses from time to time as a result of pollution or obstruction.

A major scheme of improvement was commenced towards the end of the year on the Dunster Place section of the Hall Brook. This was the outcome of a prolonged period involving much correspondence and numerous reports concerning serious pollution of this section of the Hall Brook. Government sanction to culvert the section extending for a third of a mile gave the Corporation the long awaited opportunity to carry out the necessary work. The completed project will prove to be a boon to this closely populated area of the city.

A case of serious obstruction in the King Edward Road brook was dealt with during the year. The section of the brook in question is covered for a distance of at least 100 yards by a wide culvert, constructed to support building extensions above. The almost complete stoppage of the flow through the tunnel by metal sheets, timber, motor lorry wheels and parts of a demolished workshop caused extensive flooding of nearby dwelling houses. The flood water entered the living rooms of one of the dwelling houses. This incident was ascribed to vandalism.

A tributary of the River Sowe which runs through the Corporation controlled refuse tip gave rise to complaints from residents in the locality. The seepage of liquid into the stream from the tip created noxious odours of a most offensive character which called for urgent remedial measures. By a process of dredging and sluicing the pollution was abated and the offending odours were dispelled.

Meat Inspection.

As was forecast in last year's report the amount of slaughtering carried out at the public abattoir remained near the 1955 figure of approximately 180,000 animals. There has been no appreciable change in the numbers of the different animals killed, but there was a slight increase in beef supplies. It has been estimated that consumption of meat and offal per head for the year was 103 lb., and exceeded the 1934-8 average for the first time in post-war years. Producers in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia provided nearly four-fifths of the total beef supply compared with less than two-thirds before the war. About 36 per cent of the mutton and lamb supply in 1956 was home produced and 53 per cent imported from Commonwealth countries, bringing the total Commonwealth share to nearly 90 per cent. Consumption of

mutton and lamb in 1956 was just below the pre-war average. Most of the increase in meat consumption since before the war was in pork, which is put at about $17\frac{1}{2}$ lb per head in 1956 compared with $10\frac{1}{2}$ lb pre-war.

Most of the slaughtering being carried out at the public abattoir is being done by the wholesalers—the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and G. H. Monk and Co. Ltd., and by the Slaughtering Contractors Group. A proportion of the carcase meat slaughtered by these firms is sold outside the city.

Although there is some congestion during the peak-killing periods of the year, on the whole the abattoir, constructed in the early thirties for a far smaller population, has been able to cope with the through-put despite the fact that one of the dressing areas in the beef slaughter-hall has not been fitted out with electrical hoists and saws.

Working hours have continued to be from 6.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays and from 6.0 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays, and the number of slaughtermen employed there by the various firms is approximately 50. As was noted last year the number of private butchers using the abattoir to kill their own stock is very small, and it is quite clear that the post-control practice of employing contractors to do their slaughtering, or buying off the hook, has come to stay. It may well be that this trend will see the end of the established craftsman who used to take great pride in turning out a well dressed carcase that was once upon a time so proudly displayed in his butcher's shop.

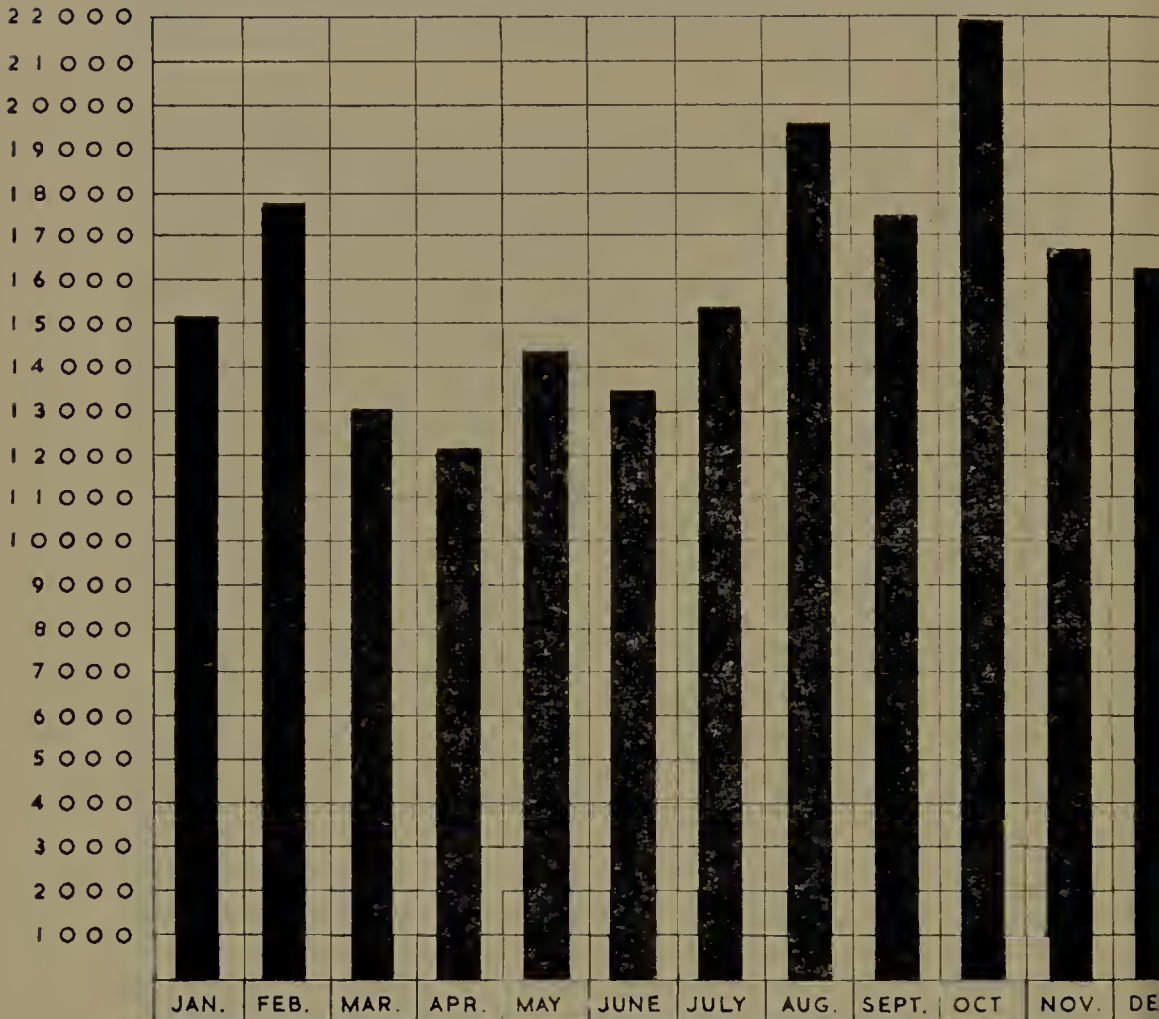
A great deal remains to be done in maintaining improved standards in slaughterhouses generally. The term slaughterhouse, to many people synonymous with blood and other organic matter, should now begin to be thought of as the primary stage in the preparation of sound, healthy and hygienically prepared articles of food.

Animal Health.

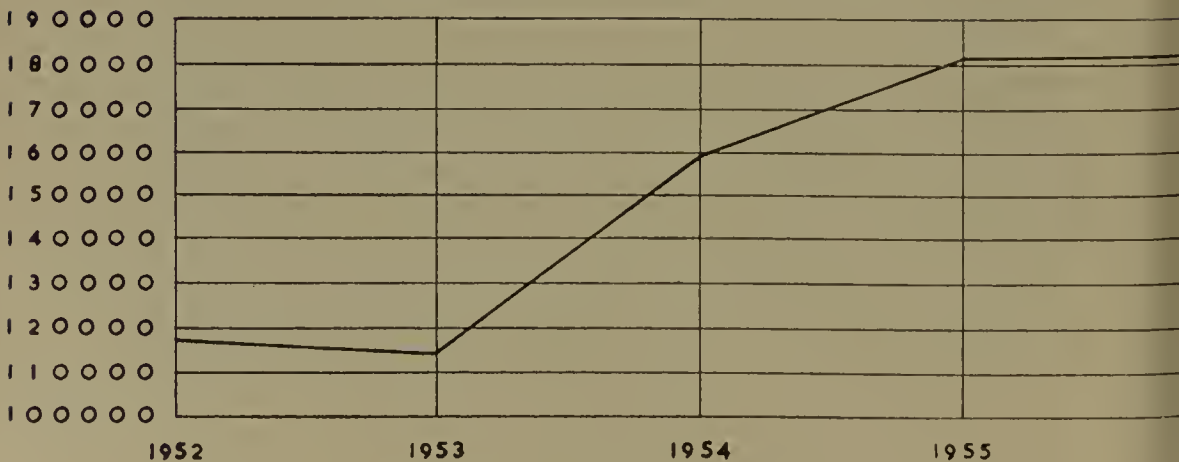
This year again there has been a marked improvement in the quality of animals slaughtered. The main factors responsible for the improvement are the success of veterinary researches into animal diseases, the eradication schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and private buying of livestock in cattle markets.

Not so many years ago the percentage of cows infected with tuberculosis was about 38% (figures obtained from the post-mortem findings), now this figure is around the 15% mark. If the current rate of progress is maintained, bovine tuberculosis, once our greatest cattle scourge, should for all practical purposes be a thing of the past by the early 1960's.

CHART ILLUSTRATING ANNUAL KILLING SPREAD - OVER FOR 1956.



GRAPH SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.



So far as we are concerned in South Warwickshire there are high hopes that this part of the county will be a clean area in the next three years. The tuberculin test as applied in the detection of tuberculous cattle has proved the only reliable method, and we continue to be a centre for the slaughter of animals sent in by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, under the provision of the Tuberculosis Orders. During the year under review, over 80 bovine animals were inspected for this purpose. The work of the meat inspectors in this connection has a twofold purpose. First, there is the prevention of tuberculous meat being sold to the public, and secondly, the cessation of the sale of possibly infected milk being put into the market.

Congenital tuberculosis was observed in five cases. Four of these were reported to the Ministry for field investigation. As a result four of the dams were traced and found to be suffering from the disease. Loss of the market ticket on one calf meant that it was not possible to trace the dam.

In bovines, fascioliasis is still the main cause of unfitness in livers. Nearly 1600 livers were condemned for this reason alone this year and in addition there were a large number of part livers also condemned for this same condition. In sheep, figures for this condition show a considerable improvement from last year.

Actinomycosis and abscesses occurred more frequently in bovines than last year, a further pointer to the increasing mechanisation on the farms and in the use of baling machines where pieces of cut off wire are left on pastures and their subsequent swallowing by grazing cattle.

In pigs, pneumonia in its various forms was the outstanding disease encountered. As was the case last year, approximately one in every fifteen pigs was affected with pneumonia or pleurisy.

The total weight of meat and offal found unfit in home killed animals slaughtered at the abattoir during the year was 86 tons 2 cwt 3 qrs 22 lbs. This figure is some 20 tons less than for last year, a true indication of the improvement previously reported upon.

Diseases of Animal Acts.

Only two cases of Swine Fever were found in pigs slaughtered during the year. In each case the appropriate disinfection measures were taken and the carcasses incinerated at the refuse destructor.

Post mortem examinations were carried out on all animals which had died either in the lairages or in transit. In all cases where notifiable diseases were suspected blood specimens were taken for bacteriological examination. No notifiable disease was discovered.

Imported Meat.

With only one exception all imported meats received in the city are "pitched" at the wholesale meat market owned by the Corporation.

Routine inspections are carried out daily by the meat inspectors. During the year 559 lbs were found to be unfit for human consumption. Long storage deterioration was the chief cause for condemnation.

The conduct of the persons engaged in the handling of the meat in the meat market has generally been up to the statutory requirements.

Meat Transport.

The bulk of the meat carried from the abattoir to the retail shops is being done by the meat transport contractors but an increasing amount is being carried by the butchers in their own vans.

Only in a very small number of cases has it been necessary to make representations for improvements to conform to the Food Hygiene Regulations, etc.

All persons engaged in the carrying of meat at the abattoir and at the meat market have generally complied with the provisions relating to overalls, head-coverings, general cleanliness of persons and vehicles.

Cysticercus bovis.

Seventy-three cases were discovered in the cattle slaughtered this year. Of these, eleven were viable cysts and the carcasses were refrigerated in accordance with Ministry requirements. With no decline in the incidence of this parasite it would appear that it is more strongly established in this country than was originally thought. It would appear, therefore, that the opinion of many parasitologists concerning the transmission of the parasite by birds which consume the eggs near sewer outfalls and around sewage works, is well founded and merits further research into this problem.

General.

Once again, it has been a particularly busy year for the meat inspectors, who in addition to working a three-shift system, have had to work a considerable amount of overtime to carry out a hundred per cent inspection of all the animals killed at the abattoir. The departure of one of the full time inspectors has been greatly felt and it has not been possible to fill this vacancy. However, the position has been eased by help from the district inspectorate and by members of the Food and Drugs section.

Relations between the meat inspectors and Ministry and private practising veterinary surgeons in the district continue to be most cordial and the closest liaison between the two professions is maintained. The meat inspectors notify all worth while cases to Ministry and private veterinary surgeons. This linkage between post mortem findings and field work is much appreciated. Similarly,

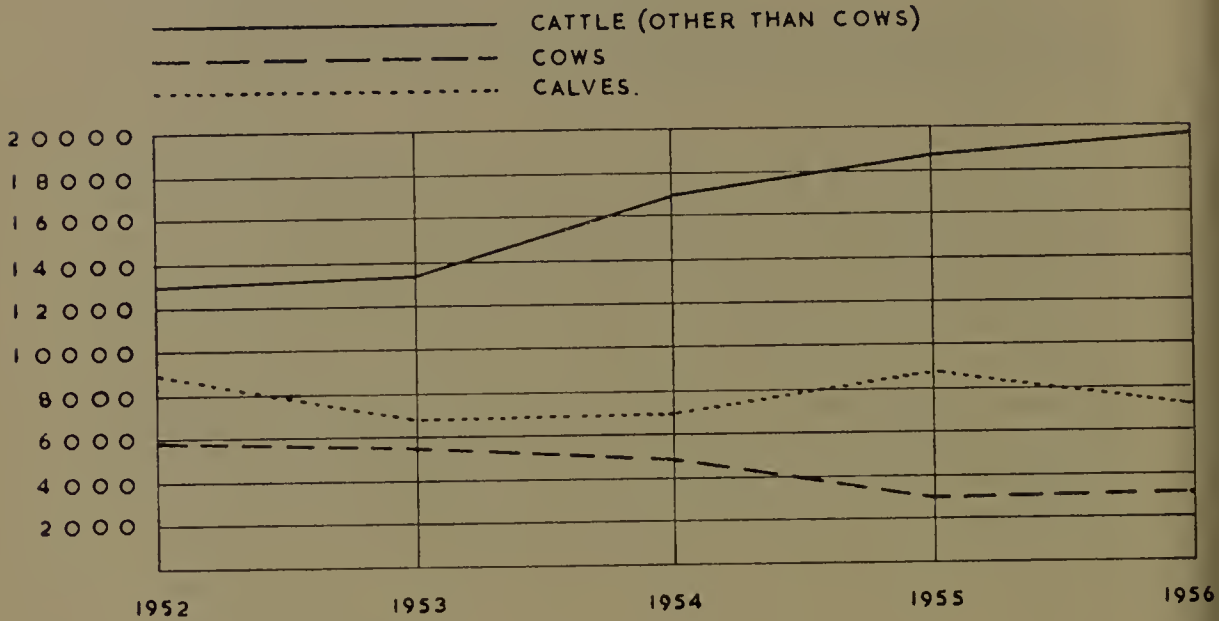
the relationship between meat inspector and butcher is kept on a friendly level.

From time to time throughout the year groups and parties visiting the abattoir have been shown the work of the department as it affects safeguarding public meat supplies. In addition, biological material has been made available, and prepared, for the local grammar and secondary schools.

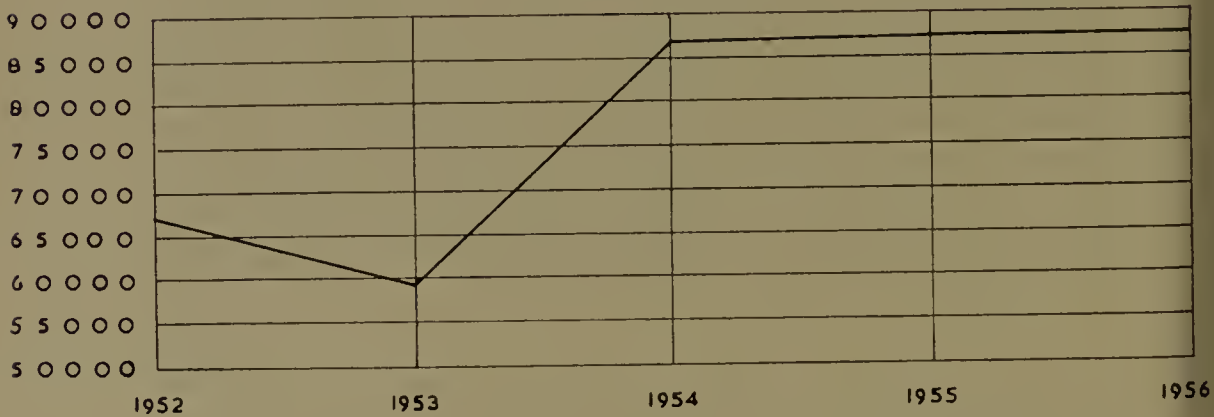
With greater stress being placed on tuberculosis eradication in the near future, the position of the meat inspector will assume greater importance than hitherto, since he will be the last in the chain of field work, testing and post-mortem findings. Further, when this area eventually becomes declared a "clean area", any case of bovine tuberculosis subsequently discovered should be notified to the Ministry for further field investigation for the scheme to be successful. Any scheme that does not call for compulsory notification of any animal discovered to be infected on post mortem inspection will surely undo all the effective work that has been done in combating this disease in cattle these past twenty years.

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF ANNUAL KILL AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

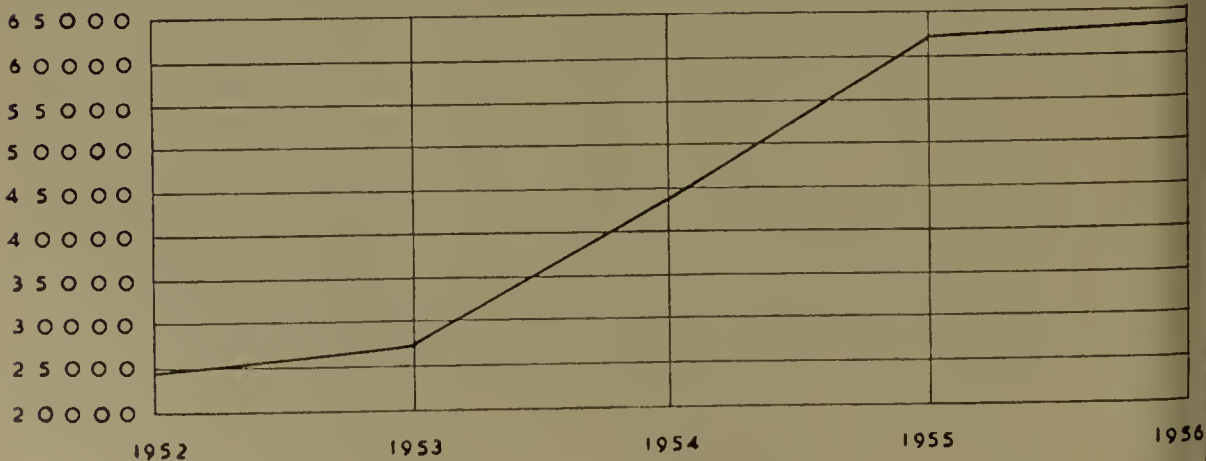
BOVINES.



SHEEP.

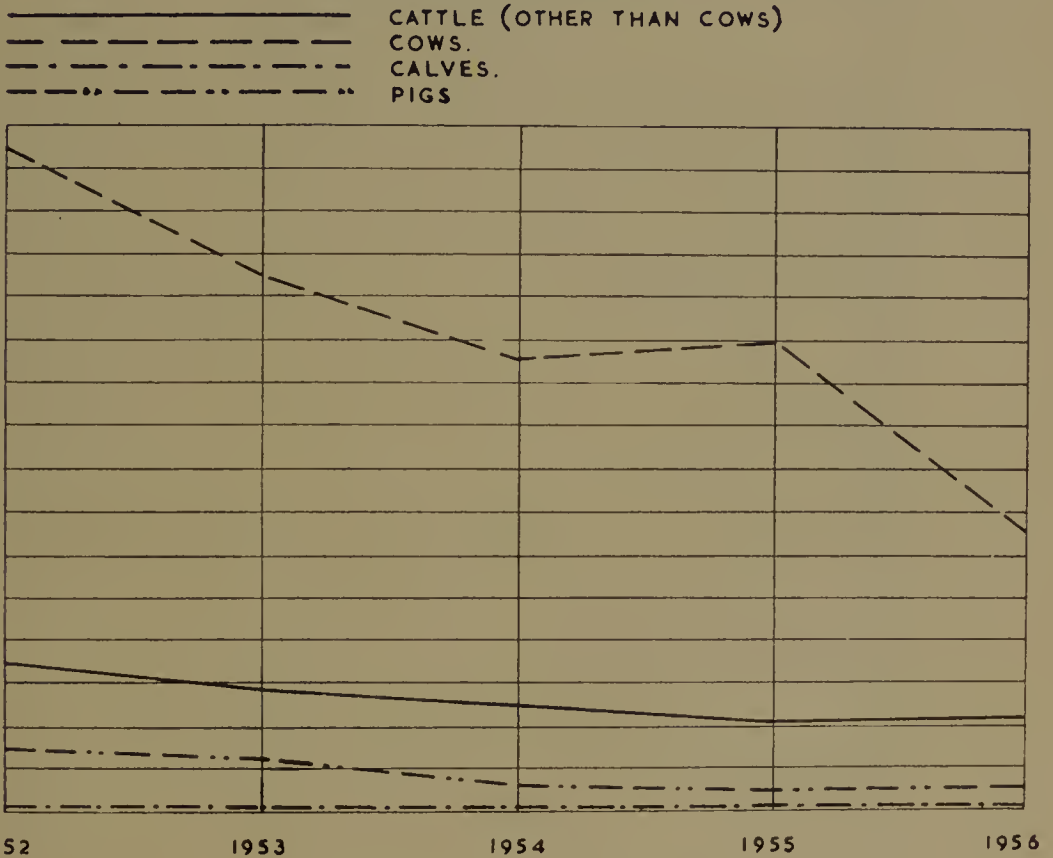


PIGS.

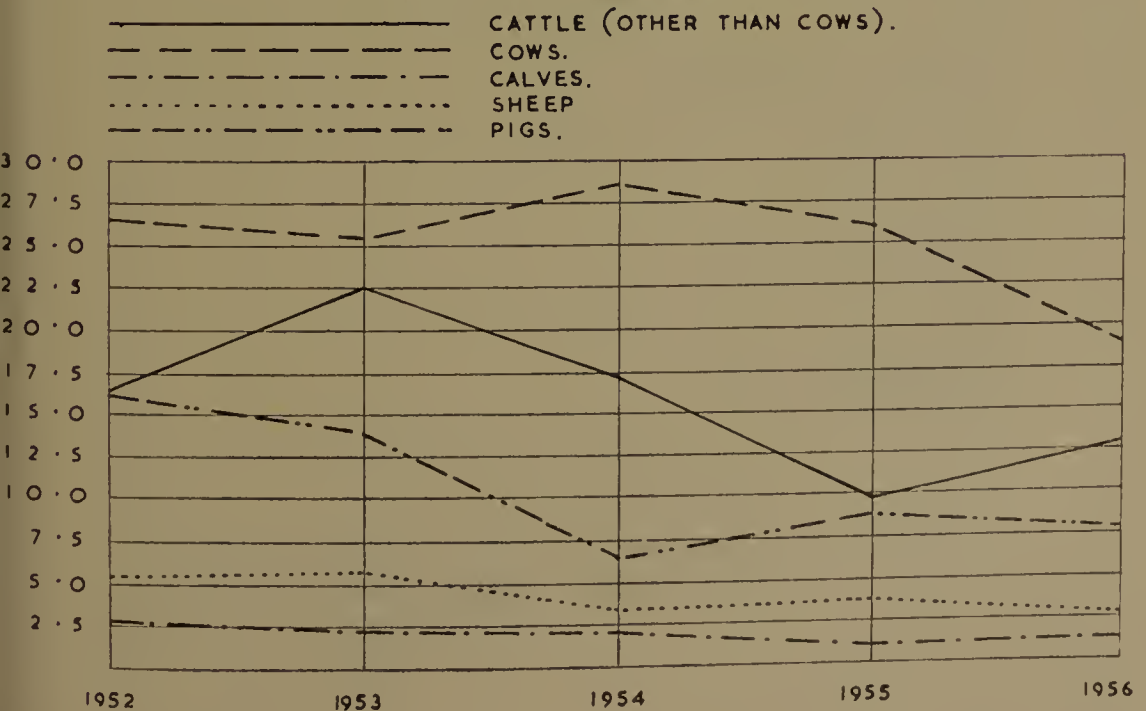


GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF PERCENTAGE OF DISEASE INCIDENCE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED.

(A) - TUBERCULOSIS.



(B) - OTHER DISEASES.



**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS OF SLAUGHTERED
ANIMALS, COVENTRY PUBLIC ABATTOIR, 1956**

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known) ...	19,449	2,958	7,136	87,947	63,374	—
No. inspected ...	19,449	2,958	7,136	87,947	63,374	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	9	42	61	51	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2,502	540	47	2,270	5,015	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	12.87	18.56	1.26	2.65	7.99	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	10	21	9	1	10	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1045	462	5	—	777	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	5.43	16.33	.09	—	1.24	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	69	4	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	11	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

“Cows” include all female bovines which have calved.

Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) affecting Whole Carcases

Disease—Condition	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Emaciation	1	7	1	32	6	47
Immaturity	—	—	6	1	—	7
Moribund	—	1	7	13	14	35
Fever	—	—	3	—	14	17
Oedema	—	—	1	4	5	10
Septicæmia :—						
(a) Septic pneumonia ..	—	—	5	—	—	5
(b) Septic pericarditis ..	—	2	—	—	—	2
(c) Septic peritonitis ..	—	—	1	4	3	8
Pyæmia	1	—	4	8	1	9
Toxæmia	—	—	—	2	—	2
Jaundice	—	—	8	—	—	8
Joint-ill	—	—	4	—	—	4
Gangrene	—	—	—	2	—	2
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	3	3
Swine Fever	—	—	—	—	2	2
Uræmia	—	—	2	—	3	5
Anaemia	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	2	10	42	62	51	167

**Diseases and Conditions (Other than Tuberculosis) Affecting Parts
or Organs Encountered During Inspection of all Animals During
the Year**

Disease—Condition	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Oedema	4	5	—	—	—	9
Fatty infiltration	4	9	1	9	2	25
Pigmentation	14	1	2	5	3	25
Emphysema	1	4	—	2	—	7
Pleurisy	125	11	3	23	697	859
Pneumonia	22	6	25	108	3535	3696
Pericarditis	65	8	1	19	1069	1152
Cirrhosis-hepatitis	—	—	5	6	979	990
Enteritis	—	31	—	10	10	51
Mastitis	—	42	—	—	11	53
Arthritis	—	—	—	4	16	20
Nephritis	3	22	—	—	9	34
Peritonitis	150	57	1	4	324	536
Abscess	686	69	12	63	39	869
Hæmorrhage	3	1	—	1	—	5
Tumours	2	1	—	2	1	6
Angiomata	12	148	—	—	—	160
John's Disease	44	77	—	—	—	121
Actinomycosis—bacillosis	217	5	—	—	2	224
Fascioliasis	1381	188	—	1266	—	2835
Strongylosis	—	—	—	42	—	42
Echinococcus	86	32	—	141	6	265
Pentastomes and other parasites	4	9	—	641	11	265
Fractures, injuries, etc. ..	21	6	1	7	22	57
Rash	—	—	—	—	9	9
Bacterial necrosis	4	—	—	—	—	4
Fibrosis	5	1	—	—	—	6
Cysticercus bovis	—	—	—	1	—	1

Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis

	Advanced	Non-Advanced	Total
Animals slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938/46	12	7	19
Animals slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.. .. .	1	63	64

Tuberculosis in Calves

Congenital Tuberculosis in calves slaughtered at the abattoir.	Cases observed	Cases reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Affected dams clinically healthy	Dams not traced
	5	4	0	1

Pharmaceuticals.

	<i>Liver—unfit for food but suitable for processing.</i>	<i>Spinal Cords.</i>	<i>Pancreas. Thyroids.</i>		<i>Supra-renals.</i>	<i>Ovaries.</i>
Cattle	48,930	2,980	11,348	308	543	28
Calves	—	—	20	—	—	—
Sheep	—	—	2,909	—	—	—
Pigs	—	76	803	—	—	—

IMPORTED MEAT—CONDEMNATIONS

Bone Taint	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Moulds	...	...	...	...	33 lbs.
Rancidity	...	...	...	...	358 lbs.
Malodour	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Decomposition	...	...	...	...	54 lbs.
Store burn	..	..	...	...	18 lbs.

Classified Summary of Inspections Carried Out by Meat Inspectors.

Ante and post-mortem examinations of animals slaughtered 180,864							
Post-mortem examinations of animals dead on arrival or							
in lairs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Inspections of country dressed carcasses ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Re-inspections of home-killed meat ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Detailed inspections of imported meat ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Inspections of canned meats ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Inspections of poultry and game ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inspections of meat carrying vehicles (Public Health Meat Regs.)... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3120
Inspections under Public Health Acts ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

FOOD AND DRUGS

Tables showing details of work carried out by the Food and Drugs Inspectors during the year 1956.

Visits in Connection with Food Inspection

Food Shops ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	828
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Abattoir ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Food and Drugs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Other Premises ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	298
Cottagers Pigs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Visits to Premises

Dairies ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	447
Milk Shops (Personal Reg.) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Hawkers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Schools ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Registered Shops (Fish Friers) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Registered Shops (Cooked Meats) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Registered Shops (Ice Cream) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Butchers Shops ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
Other Shops ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	456
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	467
Markets ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Food Poisoning and Dysentery Visits ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,140
Food Poisoning and Dysentery Revisits ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,933
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,372

Total 10,688

The total number of visits were higher than last year's figures, but the number of visits in connection with routine work was substantially less than usual. This is due to the unprecedented increase in the number of cases of Food Poisoning and Dysentery

which accounted for 5,073 visits, also 139 half-days were spent on relief duty at the Abattoir. Because of these two factors the numbers of food samples for analysis and samples for bacteriological examination were very much below normal.

MILK

It is estimated that the quantity of milk consumed daily in the City is approximately 34,000 gallons, comprising :—

	gallons.
Milk from farms in the city	500
Milk from farms within 25-30 mile radius	22000
Milk from Distributing Depots	11500

The 34,000 gallons are made up as follows :—

Pasteurised Milk	25000
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk	4100
Tuberculin Tested Milk	100
Channel Island T.T. Milk	1000
Sterilised Milk	3600
Channel Island Pasteurised	200

The number of complaints received during the year has once again been very low, which indicates that general conditions of cleanliness and efficiency in the processing dairies is being maintained.

Approximately 1,550 gallons of milk were supplied daily to city schools, this being served to 37,000 children per day. The milk has been frequently sampled and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results have shown good standards of quality and cleanliness and safety throughout the year.

PURVEYORS OF MILK

Number of retail purveyors selling milk within the city :—

	1955	1956
(a) residing in the city	73	71
(b) residing outside the city	47	44

Number of retail purveyors selling bottled milk only from shop premises 392 419

During the year 500 inspections were made of dairies and milk shops and of milk vehicles. All the dairies were inspected during the year and conditions were generally found to be satisfactory.

DESIGNATED MILK

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949/54

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949/53.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/54.

Table setting out the number of licences issued during 1956.

Pasteurised Milk, Pasteurisers' Licences ...	...	...	7
Pasteurised Milk, Dealers' Licences ...	...	...	416
Sterilised Milk, Dealers' Licences ...	...	...	469
Tuberculin Tested, Dealers' Licences ...	...	...	133

The seven pasteurisers' Licences issued include 4 licences to pasteurise milk by the H.T.S.T. Process and 3 by the holder process.

One dairy changed from the Holder process to H.T.S.T. process early in the year and this necessitated structural alterations in the dairy as well as the installation of a new H.T.S.T. plant and a new bottle washer.

All the milk now sold in the City, with the exception of a small quantity of approx. 80—100 gallons of Tuberculin tested milk, is either pasteurised, T.T. pasteurised, or sterilised.

Samples of milk were obtained frequently from all the processing dairies, and samples were also taken of sterilised milk processed outside the City and retailed here. All samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

The number of samples submitted and the results obtained are set out below :—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples obtained.</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory.</i>	<i>No. unsatisfactory.</i>			
			<i>Total Unsatisfactory.</i>	<i>By Methylene Blue Test.</i>	<i>By Phosphatase Test.</i>	<i>By Turbidity Test.</i>
Pasteurised	323	317	6	—	6	—
T.T. Pasteurised	151	150	1	—	1	—
Sterilised	117	116	1	—	—	1

During the year 57 samples submitted for the Methylene Blue test were reported void, as the shade temperature was above 65° F. Five hundred and ninety-one samples of designated milk were obtained during the year as compared with eight hundred and eighteen obtained during 1955. The number of samples obtained is considerably less than last year, due to pressure of other work and shortage of staff. The percentage of samples failing the prescribed tests was 1.35% compared with 1.7% in 1955.

With respect to the unsatisfactory samples, each dairy was visited and the plant and equipment inspected and checked. The dairymen were advised and cautioned, repeat samples taken, and in each instance they were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-1952

The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage, and sale of ice cream within the city at the close of the year, together with comparative figures for recent years are as follows :

No. of premises registered for	for	1953	1954	1955	1956
manufacture and sale ...	...	72	68	51	53
No. of premises registered for	...				
storage and sale only ...	...	775	725	749	790

During the year inspections of premises and vehicles were made and samples of ice cream submitted to the laboratory for examination for bacteriological cleanliness in accordance with the Ministry's provisional grades.

The samples were graded as follows :—

Grade 1	9	}	Satisfactory
Grade 2	1		
Grade 3	3	}	Unsatisfactory
Grade 4	2		

The five unsatisfactory samples were all obtained from a cafe in the City centre. The ice cream was manufactured outside the city and brought to the cafe as liquid in churns and there processed into Ice Cream. The methods of storage, condition of churns and methods of freezing were inspected and the Manager advised.

The number of samples taken during the year was very much below previous years, due to pressure of work in connection with Food Poisoning and Dysentery outbreaks

Table of Comparison of Ice Cream Samples taken 1949—1956

	No. of Samples	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory	% Unsatisfactory
1949	154	86	68	44%
1950	139	96	43	31%
1951	142	112	30	21%
1952	221	165	56	25%
1953	116	92	24	21%
1954	85	54	31	37%
1955	73	63	10	14%
1956	15	10	5	33½%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Premises registered under Section 16, of the Act for the Manufacture, Storage or Sale of Food

This Section prohibits the use of premises for the manufacture or sale of the undermentioned foods unless the premises are suitable for the purpose and are duly registered by the local authority.

- (a) The sale or manufacture of ice cream or the storage of ice cream intended for sale; or
- (b) The preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.
(The preparation of meat or fish by cooking is deemed to be the preservation thereof for this purpose.)

Before registration is effected, the premises must comply with the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which lays down certain requirements relating to structural conditions, suitability and cleanliness which must be observed in order to prevent contamination of the food produced or sold.

The number of registered premises under the Act is set out as follows :—

	1955.	1956.
Number of premises on register, 1st January ...	1158	1165
Number of premises added to register during the year	34	38
Number of premises on register, 31st December ...	1165	1214

Classification of Premises Registered at close of year

	1955.	1956.
Premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream	51	53
Premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream	749	790
Premises registered for the preparation or manu- facture of pressed, potted or preserved meat, etc.	221	224
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages only	95	95
Premises registered for cooking of fish	49	52

Bacteriological Examination of Food and Investigations *re* Food Borne Diseases

A close liaison with the Public Health Laboratory Service in connection with the investigation of food borne diseases has always been established. These examinations are of the utmost importance and their value cannot be over-estimated.

During the year 49 samples were submitted to the Laboratory in connection with cases of paratyphoid fever, food poisoning, and in respect of complaints from members of the public, school kitchens and canteens. The samples were most varied and included pork pies, fish paste, cream and egg albumen. Twenty-six of the

samples were taken in connection with cases of food poisoning and the bacteriologist reported that in each case no evidence of food poisoning organisms was found.

In connection with an outbreak of dysentery at one of the schools in the city, swabs were taken from W.C. seats, door handles and chains to W.C. cisterns. One of the swabs taken from the W.C. seats in the Infants Department was found to be positive *Shigella Sonnei*. After receiving this report instructions were given for all of the toilets to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Eight samples of butter, margarine and cooking fat were taken from a local store where contamination had taken place due to flooding caused by a burst pipe.

Four samples of butter were reported to be contaminated with coliform bacilli and the consignments of butter were destroyed. The margarine and cooking fat were used for manufacturing purposes.

At one of the cafes in the town investigations were carried out to test the efficiency of a dishwashing machine. Swabs were taken from meat trays after being passed through the machine; the reports on the trays were satisfactory.

Report on the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in relation to sampling and analysis of food and drugs for the year ending 31st December, 1956

During the year 424 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the public analyst, who certified 408 to be genuine and 16 unsatisfactory.

The samples detailed in the table below were collected in the following manner.

Formal Samples : 1. Informal Samples : 423.

Articles.	Total	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Baby Foods	1	1	..
Baking Powder	1	1	..
Bread	1	..	1
Butter	3	2	1
Cake and Bun Flours and Pudding Mixtures ...	24	23	1
Cereal Products	2	2	..
Coffee, Coffee and Chicory ...	10	10	..
Cream (Tinned)	1	1	..
Custard and Dessert Powders	7	7	..
Dried Milk	1	1	..
Fish (Tinned or Potted) ...	23	23	..
Flavouring Essences	5	5	..
Flour	12	10	2
Gravy Powder	3	3	..
Herbs and Spices	25	25	..
Jellies	17	17	..
Meat and Fish Pastes	14	14	..
Meat (Tinned)	2	2	..
Medicines and Drugs	82	78	4
Milk	71	64	7
Peanut Butter	1	1	..
Preserves	11	11	..
Sandwich Spread	2	2	..
Salmon	1	1	..
Soups	24	24	..
Sponge Mixtures	12	12	..
Sugar (Icing)	11	14	..
Sauces and Pickles	2	2	..
Tea	6	6	..
Vinegar	9	9	..
Others	37	37	..
Totals	424	408	16

MILK

Seven samples of milk were reported during the year to be unsatisfactory. Details of the samples and the action taken are set out below and each case is identified by a letter of the alphabet.

Case A.—These were two informal samples of milk reported to be deficient of 3% fat and 6% fat respectively. The samples were taken from two separate churns being part of a consignment of fifteen churns. The remaining churns were reported to be satisfactory and the average result of the consignment was genuine.

Case B.—These were three informal samples obtained from three separate churns and reported to be deficient of 10% fat, 3% fat and 13% fat respectively. The total consignment consisted of five churns and the average fat content of the five churns was 3.5% and therefore no formal action was taken.

Case C.—This was an informal sample of milk reported to be deficient of 15% fat. The total consignment consisted of two churns and the average fat content was 3%, therefore no action was taken.

Case D.—This was a sample of milk taken from an individual cow. Complaints had been received that the milk was of poor quality. This particular cow was a heavy milker, giving seven gallons of milk a day, and the farmer was advised to keep this cow apart from the herd until the quality of the butter fat improved.

OTHER FOODS

The remaining 9 samples of food other than milk found to be unsatisfactory were all informal samples and details of these are set out below.

Balsam of Aniseed.

This was an informal sample reported to be deficient of acetic acid. A formal sample will be obtained.

Bread.

This sample was submitted to the analyst respecting a foreign body found in a loaf of bread. The analyst reported that the foreign body was of aluminium alloy. In this case the manufacturers of the bread were prosecuted and fined £5 and costs.

Butter.

This sample was submitted to the analyst following a complaint from a householder that the butter was unfit for consumption. Part of the butter had turned white and the analyst reported that the sample was rancid. The shop premises were visited and the remainder of the butter of this consignment was taken off sale and returned to the wholesalers to be used for manufacturing purposes.

Cake Mixture.

This was an informal sample reported to be unsatisfactory in that sugar was not stated in the list of ingredients on the label. A letter was sent to the manufacturers calling their attention to this. The manufacturers replied that a gum label is fixed to each of the cartons, stating that the mixture contains sugar, and they assumed that the label had come away from the carton. They forwarded for information another carton on which the words "fully sugar sweetened" were labelled on the front and back of the carton. In these circumstances no further action was taken.

Cough Mixture.

This was an informal sample reported to be deficient of 0.6% chloroform. A formal sample will be obtained.

Flour.

This sample was submitted in connection with a complaint from a householder that she had baked a cake with this flour and the cake was unfit to eat. The analyst reported that the flour was deficient of carbon dioxide and this would account for the spoilage of the lady's cake. No formal sample could be obtained as the remainder of the stock had been disposed of. However, the matter was reported to the manufacturers, who recompensed the householder for her trouble.

Indian Brandee.

This was an informal sample and the analyst reported that the label stated that the product contained 8.75 spirit of nitrous ether. No nitrous ether was found upon analysis. A formal sample is to be obtained.

Parrish's Food.

This was an informal sample reported to be unsatisfactory by the analyst in that the label was marked B.P. and should have been B.P.C. The firm concerned were notified and they informed us that this was old stock and all the new packets were now labelled B.P.C. Under these circumstances no further action was taken.

Plain Flour.

This was an informal sample and the analyst reported that it contained only 137 mg. of chalk per 100 gms. instead of at least 235 mg. A formal sample is to be obtained.

Analysis of Sample Results.

Percentage of samples found to be adulterated	2.84
Percentage of samples found to have labelling contraven- tions ... ..	.47
Percentage of samples found to be unfit by reason of rancidity, infestation, etc. ... ..	.23
Percentage of samples found to be unfit by presence of Foreign Body ... ..	.23
Total percentage of samples found to be unsatisfactory ...	<u>3.77</u>

INSPECTION OF FOOD AT MARKETS, SHOPS AND STORES

During the year 2,743 inspections were made of markets, shops and stalls, etc., where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale. Of this number 1,317 visits were made for the purpose of examining food to ascertain its fitness or otherwise for human consumption. In the cases where food was found to be unfit it was surrendered by the owner and a surrender certificate was issued.

The surrendered foods were destroyed locally at the refuse destructor, except where they had some value as animal feeding stocks and were disposed of accordingly.

The quantities of food surrendered as unfit during the year are set out below :—

UNSOUND FOOD

Total weight of Foods surrendered :—

	<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	1	5	0	25½
Fish	9	6	3	24
Poultry	0	6	0	0
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	2	6	2	24
Other Foods	2	1	3	11¼
	15	6	3	0¾

CANNED FOODS

Meat	2,380 cans
Fruit and Vegetables	11,456 cans
Other Foods	2,874 cans

The meat referred to in this table is in addition to that condemned at the Abattoir.

BUTTER FACTORIES AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN MARGARINE

	1956
Number of premises registered as butter factories	2
Number of premises registered as wholesale dealers in margarine	31
During the year 1956, fifty-three visits were made to the Butter Factories.	

COVENTRY CORPORATION ACT, 1948

Sections 56 and 76

FOOD HAWKERS

This Act provides for the registration of all persons not keeping open shop who sell, offer or expose for sale any food from any cart, barrow, or other vehicle or from any basket, pail, tray, or other receptacle. The premises used as storage accommodation for any food intended for sale from such vehicles or receptacles are also required to be registered. In December, 1956, the number of persons on the register was forty, and in twenty-seven instances the premises were also registered.

During the year twelve applications were received from persons who wished to be registered as food hawkers. The premises were visited and where found to be unsatisfactory, registration was withheld until suggested alterations were carried out. Eventually all twelve were registered.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

The above regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956, except for certain parts which became operative on 1st July, 1956. The regulations replace Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and give the Local Authority greatly increased powers respecting premises used for the storage, preparation and sale of open food. Under these regulations "business" now includes a canteen, club, school, hospital or institution whether carried on for profit or not and any undertaking or activity carried on by a public or local Authority.

During the year routine inspections were carried out at a number of food premises, but owing to staff difficulties the number of visits was not as high as anticipated. However, 121 notices were served and at the end of the year 61 of these had been complied with. Many improvements were carried out without the service of notices, in many cases being the result of informal discussions between the Food and Drugs Inspectors and the tradesmen concerned. Full details of the work carried out are set out below :—

Details of work carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Number of Food Premises :—

Cleansed and re-decorated	...	...	...	...	25
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	6
Lockers provided	...	...	...	...	14
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	12
Wash hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	48
Hot water provided	...	...	...	...	25
Refrigeration provided	...	...	...	...	24
Tables re-surfaced	...	...	...	...	19
Screening of open food provided	...	...	...	...	66
Tables and counters covered with impervious material	...	...	...	...	6
Shop counters covered with impervious material	...	...	...	...	8
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of refuse removed and bins provided	...	...	...	...	7
Defective drain repaired	...	...	...	...	1

268

FOOD HYGIENE

The annually increasing numbers of cases of food poisoning emphasises the need for an improvement in the standards of hygiene in the food trade. During the year, 5,073 visits and re-visits were made by the Food Inspectors to cases of food poisoning and dysentery. Investigations of food poisoning outbreaks involve long and intricate investigation. This has resulted in the year in a serious inroad into the time available for the inspection and direct control of the food trades in the City. The new Food Hygiene Regulations will, it is hoped, result in an improvement in the hygiene of food premises, food equipment, and food display.

The Regulations should prove adequate to control the physical environment of food, but the human element remains controllable only by the individual conscience. This conscience cannot operate fully without an adequate knowledge of the rights and wrongs of food handling, and it is to the provision of this knowledge that the lectures and talks given by members of the staff during the year have been directed. Almost 200 food handlers have received organised instruction of this kind during the year. These people are keen members of the food trade who are prepared to give of their time towards gaining further knowledge, but, alas, they represent only a small fraction of the people involved in food handling. However, valuable work can, and is being done during visits of inspection by indicating the causes, and methods of prevention, of food poisoning to food handlers in the premises at which they work.

Various organisations have made requests for talks to be given on the subject of food hygiene, and all requests have been met. Such interest is heartening to the Staff, for there is much evidence of apathy amongst the public towards demanding clean food, cleanly handled.

In general during the year the food traders have co-operated satisfactorily in the implementation of the new laws. Many have asked for, and received, guidance in the application of the law to their own particular trade. It is, however, a sad commentary that the food trade remains almost alone in the use of newspaper as a wrapping material, albeit only as an outer wrapping. The new law prohibiting newspaper coming into direct contact with food other than raw vegetables has been a long awaited measure, and has ended what has always been a repulsive and often dangerous practice.

MAGISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS

Magisterial proceedings were instituted in seventeen instances. In cases involving the service of five summonses in respect to contraventions of Section 2, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, fines and costs amounting to £36 1s. od. were imposed upon the defendants.

In one case where a summons was served under Article 26 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949, relating to a bottle of milk delivered to a purchaser when the bottle was in a dirty condition, a fine of £10 was imposed upon the defendant.

Four summonses were served in respect to non-compliance with statutory abatement notices under Sections 92 and 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, concerning statutory nuisances found to exist in dwelling houses. The magistrates made an order in three instances requiring the work to be done within a specified period. In the remaining instance costs of 20s. were awarded to the Corporation in addition to an order being made for the work to be done within a specified period.

Two nuisances orders made by the Magistrates in October, 1955, in respect to statutory nuisances found to exist in dwelling houses were returned to the Court for non-compliance during the year under review. A fine of £2 10s. od. was imposed in each instance. Every effort was made to induce the owner to comply with the nuisance orders. However, after giving him every opportunity he failed to comply with the orders and the cases were again returned to the Court, when a daily penalty of £2 was imposed and a total of £104 was paid in accumulated fines. The work was then done. Two summonses were served in respect to non-compliance with statutory notices under Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936. A fine of £2 was imposed in each instance. One owner paid a daily penalty of 10s. amounting to a total of £9 10s. od. One summons was served in respect to non-compliance with a statutory notice under Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and a fine of 10s. was imposed.

AIR POLLUTION PREVENTION

The most important event of the year under review was the passing of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which received Royal Assent on the 5th July, 1956. The Act did not immediately become operative, since it was the intention of the Minister to produce legislation of phased application. Certain parts of the Act, however, considered by many to be the most important, came into operation on the 31st December, 1956, by means of the Clean Air Act, 1956, (Appointed Day) Order, 1956. These parts now available include the controversial "smoke control area", where, for the first time in history, the fact that a very large proportion of the worst smoke and grime of our cities is due to the low level discharge of coal smoke from domestic grates, has been recognised in national legislation.

National recognition of this chronic problem was perhaps overdue, but no other country has been confronted with this particular difficulty of the domestic open coal fire in such an acute and widespread form. The fact that we were the leading nation in the industrial revolution, with a rapid rise in living standards at a time when amenities were practically discounted and design was crude, is the reason for this state of affairs.

In their private Acts of Parliament of 1948 and 1954, Coventry City Council was the first local authority in the country to operate powers to establish smokeless zones covering domestic, business, and industrial premises. Other important powers were also obtained to give a measure of control by 'prior-approval' of the design and composition of industrial installations. Coventry's initiative was followed by other local authorities which based their plans to a large extent on our experiences. The technical "know-how", particularly in regard to industrial plant, the mass of detail accumulated and experience gained by our inspectorate in the field of hitherto unfathomed domestic application, are eagerly sought and have been of great assistance to other authorities. An example of this was to be found at a well-attended sessional meeting of the

R. S. H. held in Coventry on 19th July, 1956, at which a representative of the Department was invited to give a paper on "The Role of the Public Health Inspector in the Campaign for Clean Air".

The Government was no doubt impressed by the success achieved in Coventry and other places. The rising tide of public opinion against the ravages of air-pollution, generally considered to have been sparked off by the London smog deaths of 1952-53, the post-war shortages and high cost of fuel, resulted in an intensive survey of possible methods of control and reorganisation of fuel policy. Coventry proved, in effect, to have represented something in the nature of a test area for the new principles where a form of pilot application was tried out following Governmental endorsement of private Act proposals. This is borne out by the fact that similar prevention methods have now materialised for enactment nationally and Coventry's code of requirements for new plant has been recommended for national application.

It is on the domestic side that the greatest impact will be felt by the community. Hitherto, smoke from private dwelling houses could only be dealt with if it caused a nuisance at common law. All former statutes which dealt expressly with smoke excluded such premises from their provisions. The Clean Air Act, 1956, empowers local authorities to control domestic smoke firstly by prohibiting the emission of defined "dark smoke" in a similar manner to that laid down for industrial premises, and secondly by establishing "smoke control areas" wherein only authorised fuels may be used. Householders must play their part in reducing smoke. Old-fashioned domestic grates will have to be converted to burn solid smokeless fuel, or electric or gas heaters and cookers will have to be installed. Owners or occupiers of premises in smoke control areas will in the majority of cases be able to obtain grants from the local authority towards the cost of any necessary conversions.

The use of the traditional open fire will largely remain and the pattern of domestic smoke control in the future will lie in the use of improved appliances, with integral gas-ignition, burning coke—preferably a high quality, free-burning type—with optimum efficiency. Propaganda and publicity will be essential, the burning of raw coal on stool-basket appliances will die hard as the Britishers' traditional love for an open fire, and the citizen will have to be convinced that he is materially adding to the general pollution of the air and at the same time being wasteful in the use of coal, which is our only home produced fuel. Considerations of relative efficiencies of domestic appliances should, in this technological age with high-priced fuel conditions, prove to be a telling factor in putting over cleaner air. The science known as "clean air engineering" in the domestic field is striving for higher efficiencies. The 15—20% efficient coal-burning, air-polluting, common type open fire pales into insignificance against the 55% efficient smokeless fuel, draught-controlled convector open fire. The success of the campaign will depend mainly on the availability of adequate supplies of smokeless fuels. The foreseeable solution to the problem

of domestic smoke is based on the use of gas coke, and it is assumed that the Minister will so phase the rate of establishment of smoke control areas to match the available supplies of gas coke in the area. Unfortunately, a great deal of the coke now produced is not of the high-quality free-burning type which the domestic consumer would regard as completely satisfactory. Intensive research and development is proceeding to produce a smokeless fuel which ignites as readily as coal, burns as brightly and is suitable for all domestic appliances. A large degree of success has already been achieved in this field of development of reactive cokes and increasing supplies are reaching the market. New household words to describe these fuels, such as "Cleanglow", "Phimax", "Phurnacite", "Thermalite", and of course "Coalite" and "Rexco",—should find their places in the vocabulary of the future to the exclusion of much despised "coal".

On the industrial side the impact of the new Act will be no less resounding but of apparent lesser stringency in that a period of years is allowed for conversions of plant. The permissible density of smoke has been considerably reduced, references to "black smoke" in former legislation have now been altered to "dark smoke" which is 40% black, and time-limit tolerances for such smoke are to be specified by the Minister by regulation. In the new Act, the Government has avoided writing in rigid and detailed technical provisions; instead, general principles are enunciated on which regulations are to be framed. The success of the Act will largely depend on the energy and enthusiasm which local authorities put into administering it. Public health inspectors will have the major part of the work to perform and shortage of staff will make the task more difficult, particularly in industrial areas where the staffing situation is most acute. They can be relied upon, however, to play their part to the full.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Coventry by no means comes into the category of what the Beaver Committee on Air Pollution described as "black areas". The larger factories of the city are of fairly recent construction with modern means of power and heat generation, and experience has shown that Coventry works' engineers are, to a large extent, efficiency and smoke conscious. Larger industrial concerns have, in post-war years, made special study of combustion efficiency, and a high degree of co-operation with the Department's officers is maintained.

In instances where plant operation and maintenance are not all they should be, or where obsolete plant still remains in the older establishments, smoke emissions result and investigations are commenced. During the year 81 complaints were received and 1,152 observations were made of chimneys. The majority of smoke nuisances were observed at factories still using unreliable hand-firing methods, and in these cases more efficient methods were recommended by the Department. Improvements were effected in

other cases by advising and arranging the use of better fuel; repairs to flues, furnaces and equipment; replacement of plant; the installation of mechanical stoking methods, etc. Twenty-five written notices were served and 75 verbal notices given.

It is to be deplored that installations at certain Local Authority-owned establishments were serious offenders. In the majority of cases the plant was of older type designed by manufacturers at a time when smoke prevention did not come high or even appear on the list of desirable qualities. A further drawback is that the aspirations of the Local Authority to instal plant of optimum smokelessness are frequently dampened by the central Government in refusing adequate loans for the higher capital cost of equipment.

DUST, GRIT AND FUME EMISSIONS

Resulting from closely allied causes to smoke emission and giving rise to serious nuisances and considerable air-pollution, are emissions of dust and grit. In recent years this problem has become intensified and attendant difficulties have been experienced by public health inspectors. The Clean Air Act, 1956, requires all practicable means to be employed for minimizing the emission of grit and dust, and local authorities can call upon the owners of plant burning more than one ton an hour to carry out measurements. Grit particles forming an ingredient of smoke can usually be satisfactorily traced to the source since the chimney discharge is of a visual nature. On the other hand, grit particles—usually deposited within a few hundred yards of the stack and causing nuisance to residents—may have negligible optical density even at high concentrations. Field methods of measurement are as yet not entirely satisfactory, in addition to being time-wasting to a high degree and completely dependent upon weather conditions. In an industrial area the pin-pointing of offenders, where the chimney emission is not visual, may be extremely difficult to prove in statutory proceedings. It is to be hoped that the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in conjunction with the British Standards Institution, will be able to evolve more convenient and efficient methods of measurement of air-borne particulate matter and dust burdens of flue gases.

Investigations were made following complaints of dust and grit emissions (as distinct from dust forming an ingredient of smoke) and of noxious vapours and fumes from several factories in the city. Such complaints related to discharges from foundry cupolas, Bessemer converters, grinding, metal-polishing and plating establishments, industrial tips, concrete slab works, and chemical works.

At three large foundries water-washing extraction plants were fitted, at the instigation of the Department, to cupolas and steel converters, resulting in the arrestment of approximately ten tons per week of particulate matter formerly discharged into the atmosphere of the city. Other improvements related to enclosure of

dust-producing processes, provision of unit dust-collectors and bag-filters, and application of chlorophyll odour-neutralising equipment to noxious processes at two factories.

With reference to processes registrable under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1906, joint investigations have been made by the Alkali Inspectorate and officers of this Department.

Prior Approval of Proposed Fuel-Burning Installations

The principle of submission of plans and specifications of proposed fuel-burning installations to the Local Authority for approval or otherwise of their likely smokeless qualities is one which should commend itself to all controlling bodies. This important provision of the Coventry Corporation Acts, 1948 and 1954 continues to operate successfully and is a feature of the nationally-applicable Clean Air Act, 1956. Under the new Act the submission of plans is voluntary, as in the case of Coventry's private Act, but notification of intention to instal new plant is compulsory. This should have the effect of making "prior approval" even more effective.

Since its institution, 35 applications relating to installations have been approved.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

Factories.

The following tables are inserted in compliance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937.

TABLE I.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number		
		Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the 1937 Act are enforced by local authorities	50	14	6	..
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 of the 1937 Act is enforced by local authorities	1,074	377	31	..
3. Other premises in which Section 7 of the 1937 Act is enforced by local authorities (excluding outworkers' premises) .. ..	..	..	..	..
	1,124	391	37	..

TABLE II.—DEFECTS.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding (Sec. 2) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Unreasonable tempr. (Sec. 3) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Inefficient drainage of floors (Sec. 6) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Sanitary conveniences (Sec. 7)					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Unsuitable or defective	35	31	..	6	..
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	..	2	..
Other offences against the Acts (Not including offences relating to outwork) .. ..	..	..	1	..	..
Totals	37	32	1	8	..

Outworkers.

During the year twelve lists were received in accordance with Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, from firms employing outworkers residing in the city. Of these, six lists were received in the August return and related to sixty outworkers who were employed as follows :—

Making, altering or cleaning of wearing apparel	...	...	...	...	8
Making of cardboard boxes	...	...	...	...	23
Carding, etc.	...	...	...	...	29

No contravention of the Act relating to outworkers' premises was observed during the year.

Bakehouses.

All bakehouses in the city are, for administration purposes, supervised by the specialist section which deals with factories as they come within the purview of both the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Most of the bread sold in the city is baked at three large mechanised bakeries. The small baker is quickly dying out and this is shown significantly by the fact that during the year ten small bakehouses were closed down, most of them going completely out of business.

No new bakehouse was opened during the year but one was in the course of erection and at the close of the year was practically completed. Also no plans were submitted during the year for approval by the Council of new bakery premises.

The standard of cleanliness maintained in all bakehouses has been very satisfactory and in only two instances was it found necessary to call the owners' attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The table below shows the number of bakehouses in the city and inspections, etc., carried out during the year :—

Number on register January, 1956	...	...	...	50
Number closed during the year	...	...	...	10
Number of changes of occupation	...	...	...	1
Number of new bakehouses opened during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number on register, December, 1956	...	...	...	40
Number of inspections carried out during 1956	...	...	...	206

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
For the year 1956-1957

In accordance with the requirements of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the work of rodent control has been continued throughout the year 1st April, 1956 to 31st March, 1957, by the Rodent Officer and the Rodent Operatives.

Complaints by occupiers have been investigated and treatment carried out where necessary. During the year survey inspections were made and infestations dealt with forthwith.

The work carried out by the rodent control staff is enumerated in the following table :—

TABLE 1. Investigations and Cases dealt with by the Rodent Officer.

No. of complaints of rodent infested premises investigated	...	...	920
No. of premises found to be infested (Dwelling houses)	...	...	649
(Business premises)	...	...	76
(Local authority)	...	...	64
No. of visits to infested premises	...	...	789
No. of cases where rats gained access to buildings from defective drains	...	...	18
No. of defective drains remedied	...	...	18
No. of drains examined	...	...	35
No. of premises cleared of infestation	...	...	211

TABLE II. No. of cases dealt with and work carried out by Departmental Rodent Operatives.

No. of complaints investigated	1544
No. of premises inspected by survey (Dwelling houses)	610
(Business premises)	62
(Local authority)	41
No. found to be infested (Dwelling houses)	1173
(Business premises)	154
(Local authority)	54
No. of visits and revisits to treat infestations (Dwelling houses)	4074
(Business premises)	442
(Local authority)	298
No. of infestations treated	1381
No. of infestations cleared	1203
No. of warfarin baits laid	10275
No. of instances where gas was used	Nil
No. of carcases found following treatment	162

The work of systematically baiting the sewers with poison was again interrupted during the year under review. The heavy demands made by redevelopment projects upon existing labour personnel and the unsuccessful efforts to engage suitable additional men for this type of work reflected upon this branch of the rodent control services. However, it was found possible to carry out a first maintenance treatment of the 13 centre sections of the city's main sewerage system.

No. of sewer manholes baited	...	...	...	756
No. of sewer manholes where poison baits were taken	...	...	...	243
No. of sewer manholes where no baits were taken				513

TIPS: Wyken, Baginton, Whitley, Longford

Inspections of the above-mentioned refuse tips were carried out at monthly intervals and any infestations found were dealt with successfully. The routine inspections will be continued and a maintenance treatment carried out whenever necessary.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Nineteen pet shops were licenced in the city during the year. Of this number, eighteen were granted in the form of renewals in respect to existing pet shops, while one new licence was issued. Before any premises are reported upon to the Health Committee for the granting of a licence the opinion of the Chief Fire Officer as to security of the premises against fire is obtained. Appreciation of the co-operation, which is always afforded in this respect, is recorded here.

Thirty-five visits to pet shops were made for the purpose of ensuring that the licence conditions were fully observed.

Two pet shops were closed during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act controls the manufacture and use of most of the filling materials used in the upholstery trade, and Regulations made under the Act prescribe the standards of cleanliness to be observed in the filling materials.

It requires any person carrying on the business of upholsterer, or the stuffing of toys and similar articles, and who is using new filling material, to register his premises with the local authority; also any person who manufactures or stores rag flock must do so only on premises licensed by the local authority, and in each case a fee of one pound is payable to the authority.

A local authority must keep a register of all premises registered or licensed under the Act and such register may be inspected by any person during normal office hours. An authorised officer of a local authority is empowered to enter and inspect any premises where it appears to him that filling materials to which the Act applies are stored or used, and may take samples of any such material for analysis. For the purposes of the Act members of the Public Health Inspectors staff are authorised officers.

No rag flock or filling material to which the Act applies is manufactured in the city; all material used in the upholstery trade is purchased from manufacturers and suppliers outside the city and all is obtained under warranty as complying with the prescribed standards of cleanliness.

There are in the city two firms licensed under Section 7 of the Act for the purpose of storing rag flock, and twenty premises registered under Section 2 of the Act where the business or trade of an upholsterer is carried on.

STATISTICAL TABLES AND CHARTS.

	Page
CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH	142
VITAL STATISTICS OF CITY	
During 1956 and previous years	143
COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS	
over a period of 10 years for Coventry, the large towns, and of England and Wales	144
TABLE SHOWING BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES,	
Zymotic Death-Rates, etc., of the 20 large Towns of England and Wales for 1956	146/147
INFANT MORTALITY	148
VITAL STATISTICS	
Historical Summary	149
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF THE WARDS ...	150
VENEREAL DISEASES	151/152
TUBERCULOSIS	
Live Register for 1956	153
Summary of Cases on Register	153
,, ,, Cases notified	153
,, ,, Deaths notified	153
During 1956 and previous years	153
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ...	154
DEATHS	
Chart showing principal causes to Total Deaths ...	155
INFANT MORTALITY	
Chart showing Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births in Coventry, 1931—1956	156
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS	157
Rain, Sunshine	158

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH, YEAR 1956

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total Deaths 1956.			Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Deaths in C. & W. Hosp.	Deaths in G. Hosp.	Deaths in other Inst.
	Males	Females	Total									
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	29	9	38	..	..	..	9	21	8	..	3	14
2. Tuberculosis Other ..	4	1	5	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	2
3. Syphilitic Disease ..	3	1	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	2	..
4. Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Meningococcal Infection	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	..
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	4	5	9	..	..	2	1	2	4	..	5	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	40	31	71	..	..	..	1	24	46	7	9	2
11. ditto Lung, Bronchus ..	85	11	96	..	..	..	1	55	40	4	15	10
12. ditto Breast ..	..	38	38	..	..	..	6	11	21	..	3	1
13. ditto Uterus ..	..	20	20	..	..	..	4	11	5	..	1	..
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	119	98	217	1	..	2	19	80	115	23	44	26
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia ..	5	9	14	..	1	3	3	6	1	..	4	5
16. Diabetes ..	6	12	18	..	..	..	1	3	14	..	11	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	114	149	253	..	..	..	4	57	202	4	38	23
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	250	121	371	..	..	..	12	135	224	14	30	18
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	27	18	45	..	..	..	..	12	33	..	5	7
20. Other Heart Disease ..	121	156	277	..	..	..	13	53	211	6	27	20
21. Other Circulatory Disease	34	37	71	..	..	..	1	13	57	6	14	6
22. Influenza ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
23. Pneumonia ..	57	38	95	24	2	..	4	15	50	1	25	13
24. Bronchitis ..	96	31	127	1	1	..	1	34	90	1	25	12
25. Other diseases of Respiratory System ..	27	8	35	..	..	1	2	10	22	1	12	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	12	3	15	..	..	..	..	4	11	5	2	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	3	5	8	1	..	..	1	2	4	1	4	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	21	13	34	..	..	2	10	13	9	..	14	10
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	9	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	2	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..
31. Congenital Malformation	13	11	24	17	1	..	4	2	..	2	7	7
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	100	107	207	78	1	2	16	38	72	44	77	27
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	26	12	38	..	3	1	15	9	10	19	3	5
34. All Other Accidents ..	32	32	64	2	2	4	10	9	37	38	3	7
35. Suicide ..	16	18	34	..	..	..	7	16	11	3	3	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War ..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
TOTALS ..	1256	998	2254	124	11	19	149	639	1312	182	372	229

VITAL STATISTICS OF CITY FROM 1933 to 1956 INCLUSIVE

143

Y A R.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE CITY.			TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE CITY.		
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	of Non- residents registered in the City.	of Resi- dents not registered in the City.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.
			Number	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.						Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	
1933	184,500	2,526	2,480	13.4	1,844	9.9	103	95	160	64.5	1,837	9.9
1934	184,900	2,585	2,521	13.6	1,865	10.0	125	116	144	57.1	1,856	10.0
1935	190,000	2,843	2,750	14.4	1,852	9.7	120	112	128	46.5	1,844	9.7
1936	192,360	3,009	2,912	15.1	1,960	10.1	100	101	151	51.8	1,961	10.1
1937	206,500	3,306	3,254	15.7	2,154	10.4	126	128	158	48.5	2,156	10.4
1938	219,900	3,724	3,624	16.5	2,074	9.4	139	156	203	56.0	2,091	9.5
1939	234,000	4,155	4,155	17.7	2,179	9.3	100	129	227	54.6	2,208	9.4
1940	229,400	3,973	3,973	16.4	3,157	18.0	238	298	248	63.0	3,217	13.3
1941	193,070	3,301	3,301	17.1	2,097	10.1	142	670	156	54.8	2,483	12.8
1942	207,200	3,996	3,996	19.3	1,617	8.0	59	577	249	62.3	2,076	10.2
1943	214,870	4,889	4,889	21.2	1,683	7.3	57	593	244	49.9	2,219	9.6
1944	220,400	5,466	5,466	22.8	1,664	6.9	81	583	265	48.4	2,166	9.0
1945	221,970	4,949	4,949	22.2	1,847	8.3	68	569	338	68.2	2,348	10.5
1946	232,850	4,326	5,225	22.4	1,856	7.9	69	562	284	54.3	2,349	10.0
1947	242,860	4,787	5,643	23.2	2,051	8.4	126	503	255	45.1	2,428	9.9
1948	250,400	4,249	5,101	20.3	1,803	7.2	65	489	232	45.5	2,227	8.8
1949	254,900	3,931	4,743	18.6	1,862	7.3	71	552	187	39.4	2,414	9.4
1950	256,800	3,696	4,450	17.3	1,864	7.3	113	569	145	32.6	433	9.4
1951	258,100	3,576	4,326	16.7	2,176	8.4	99	608	154	35.6	2,685	10.4
1952	261,000	3,389	4,159	15.9	1,836	7.0	94	605	132	31.7	2,347	8.9
1953	263,000	3,524	4,250	16.1	1,952	7.4	88	373	142	33.4	2,237	8.5
1954	264,600	3,465	4,171	15.76	1,938	7.3	100	336	127	30.4	2,174	8.2
1955	267,300	3,576	4,300	16.09	2,133	8.0	123	314	120	27.9	2,324	8.7
1956	272,600	3,876	4,640	17.02	2,131	7.8	118	241	124	23.7	2,254	8.3

**Table of Comparative Vital Statistics over a period of ten years
for Coventry and England and Wales.**

	BIRTH RATE		DEATH RATE		INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	
	Coventry	England and Wales	Coventry	England and Wales	Coventry	England and Wales
1947	23·2	20·6	9·9	12·3	45	41
1948	20·3	17·9	8·8	10·8	45	34
1949	18·6	16·7	9·4	11·7	39	32
1950	17·3	15·8	9·4	11·6	33	30
1951	16·7	15·5	10·4	12·5	36	30
1952	15·9	15·3	8·9	11·3	32	28
1953	16·1	15·5	8·5	11·4	33	27
1954	15·76	15·2	8·2	11·3	30	25
1955	16·09	15·0	8·7	11·7	28	25
1956	17·02	15·7	8·3	11·7	27	24

Table showing Population, Birth-rates, Death
Mortality Rates of the 20 large

	Birmingham	Bradford	Bristol	Cardiff	Coventry	Croydon	Kingston-upon-Hull	Leeds
R.G.'s ESTIMATED POPULATION	1,111,800	286,400	440,500	249,800	272,600	249,300	300,200	508,600
COMPARABILITY FACTOR:—								
(a) Births	0.94	1.00	0.99	0.94	0.95	0.99	0.96	0.98
(b) Deaths	1.08	0.95	0.88	1.12	1.37	0.83	1.24	1.15
CRUDE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	16.63	16.8	15.14	17.88	17.02	14.5	18.58	15.8
BIRTH RATE AS ADJUSTED BY FACTOR	15.63	16.8	14.99	16.81	16.1	14.4	17.84	15.5
CRUDE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	10.88	14.1	12.25	11.24	8.3	11.7	10.7	11.3
DEATH RATE AS ADJUSTED BY FACTOR	11.75	13.4	10.78	12.59	11.3	9.9	13.3	13.0
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS ..	24.6	28.2	19.34	27.76	26.7	19.0	28.86	26.9
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS ..	17.6	19.3	14.54	19.03	21.1	10.0	19.18	19.0
STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS	22.95	25.08	24.86	25.7	19.46	20.0	24.48	21.6
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS ..	37.44	41.7	36.70	41.00	36.1	28.0	36.2	37.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS ..	0.63	0.41	0.292	0.66	0.42	—	0.71	0.61
TUBERCULOSIS RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION:—								
(a) Primary Notifications								
Respiratory	0.93	0.85	0.690	1.18	1.5	0.746	0.89	0.81
Non-respiratory	0.10	0.07	0.109	0.12	0.17	0.092	0.09	0.11
(b) Deaths—								
Respiratory	0.14	0.09	0.084	0.14	0.14	0.100	0.15	0.11
Non-respiratory	0.01	0.01	0.014	0.004	0.018	0.004	0.013	0.02
*DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM:—								
Cancer (all forms, including Leukaemia and Aleukaemia)	2.08	2.33	2.11	2.08	1.7	2.375	2.04	1.94
Cancer of Lungs & Bronchus	0.45	0.46	0.40	0.396	0.351	0.521	0.48	0.44
Meningococcal Infections ..	0.00	0.007	0.00	0.012	0.00	0.00	0.006	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.00	—	—	0.00	—	0.003	0.00
Influenza	0.03	0.04	0.14	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.035	0.05
Measles	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	0.01	0.00	—	0.012	0.00	0.00	0.003	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	0.02	0.024	0.00	0.004	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.02
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) per 1,000 live births ..	0.97	1.45	0.30	0.22	1.72	1.38	0.57	1.37

* Where no deaths have occurred at all, a "dash" is inserted.

Where the number of deaths is too small to express as a rate, the figures 0.00 are inserted.

Zymotic Death-rates, Infant and Maternal
of England and Wales for 1956.

Liverpool	Manchester	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Nottingham	Plymouth	Portsmouth	Salford	Sheffield	Southampton	Stoke-on-Trent	Sunderland
773,700	686,200	277,100	312,500	216,200	231,100	167,400	499,000	196,400	273,000	182,800
0.93 1.23	0.96 1.18	0.96 1.14	0.95 1.13	1.02 1.09	1.05 0.95	0.96 1.23	1.01 1.13	0.98 1.11	0.94 1.31	0.94 1.25
20.60	17.44	17.73	16.50	16.31	15.08	16.88	14.11	16.92	15.6	20.48
19.16	16.74	17.02	15.67	16.64	15.83	16.20	14.25	16.58	14.7	19.25
11.43	12.35	11.83	11.15	11.28	12.22	12.30	11.73	10.51	11.1	10.2
14.05	14.57	13.49	12.60	12.29	11.61	15.13	13.25	11.67	14.5	12.74
25.91	29.92	24.628	21.92	17.58	24.10	29.37	23.6	30.08	27.0	25.38
17.36	20.14	17.708	15.11	13.05	16.35	20.17	18.0	20.76	18.13	16.83
24.11	26.36	28.86	23.67	23.80	24.89	28.20	21.95	26.93	30.58	24.24
38.68	43.77	43.882	35.61	35.44	37.48	45.05	37.2	42.74	46.32	38.0
0.43	0.24	1.186	0.76	0.27	0.28	1.03	—	0.59	0.228	0.52
1.313 0.130	0.86 0.08	1.231 0.245	1.04 0.11	1.05 0.08	0.65 0.06	0.681 0.06	0.801 0.074	1.07 0.05	0.978 0.11	1.28 0.15
0.177 0.009	0.15 0.02	0.148 0.011	0.11 0.01	0.12 0.00	0.11 0.004	0.197 0.006	0.184 0.020	0.127 0.015	0.216 0.011	0.14 0.01
2.054 0.579 0.005 0.006 0.022 —	2.23 0.59 0.01 — 0.05 —	2.132 0.458 0.0036 0.0036 0.0288 —	2.01 0.42 0.00 — 0.05 0.00	1.83 0.33 0.00 — 0.05 —	2.09 0.42 — — 0.01 —	2.449 0.621 — 0.006 0.048 —	2.188 0.535 0.008 — 0.040 —	2.20 0.51 0.02 — 0.04 —	2.989 0.491 0.003(6) — 0.022 —	2.05 0.43 — — 0.03 —
0.001 0.006 0.314	0.01 0.01 0.50	— — —	— 0.01 0.58	— 0.00 0.28	— 0.03 2.01	0.12 — —	0.002 0.008 0.57	— 0.01 0.30	— 0.007(3) 0.047	— — —

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1956 Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Total under										Total Deaths under One Year.						
All Causes	{	Certified	Uncertified	Under 1 Day.	1 2 Days.	2--3 Days.	3-4 Days.	4-5 Days.	5-6 Days.	Total under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-- Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.
				36	13	13	6	2	2	78	9	5	5	97	8	15	2	1	123
Measles
Whooping Cough	
Diphtheria	
Influenza...	
Tuberculosis of Nervous System...	
Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum...	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	
Syphilis	
Meningitis	
Convulsions	
Bronchitis	
Pneumonia	
Other Respiratory Diseases	
Inflammation of Stomach	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	
Hernia: Intestinal	
Obstruction	
Congenital Malformations	
Congenital Debility and Sclerema	
Icterus	
Premature Birth	
Injury at Birth	
Diseases of Umbilicus	
Atelectasis	
Suffocation in Bed and not stated	
Other Causes	

VITAL STATISTICS. (Historical Summary).

Year.	Houses Inhabited (December)	Vacant.	Popula- tion (Mid-year)	Mortality	Infectious Mortality	Deaths under one year per 1000 born.	Birth Rate
1801	2,930	..	16,034	..	..	..	..
1811	3,448	*60	17,923	..	..	..	..
1821	3,729	*114	21,448	..	..	..	..
1831	5,444	*421	27,298	..	..	..	..
1841	6,531	*590	31,032	..	..	..	..
Ten Years' Average.							
1851	7,783	*151	36,812	27	..	..	..
1861	8,991	*1,026	40,936	25	..	..	..
1871	8,535	*816	37,670	22	..	..	..
1881	9,239	*643	42,111	20	3'3	150	35'4
1891	11,465	*284	52,724	18'5	1'7	142	32'0
1901	15,571	353	69,978	16'96	1'9	153'7	29'8
1911	23,515	95	106,349	13'7	1'4	109'3	28'0
1921	28,355	502†	128,157	11'3	0'7	83'6	23'2
1931	41,275	917‡	167,083	10'1	0'2	67'7	15'7
1951	—	—	258,211	10'7	0'17	52'4	18'0
1897	†12,440	73	61,234	16'8	1'8	157	31'3
1911	23,515	95	107,287	13'3	2'08	109'8	26'9
1912	24,590	50	111,166	11'9	1'35	76'1	26'4
1913	25,051	113	115,064	11'4	0'84	91'6	26'0
1914	25,860	99	119,003	11'7	0'70	84'6	26'9
1915	26,667	56	122,982	12'9	1'39	87'8	23'8
1916	27,366	12	127,089	10'9	1'23	87'5	23'5
1917	27,531	15	130,000	10'4	0'47	78'5	20'2
1918	27,735	25	133,000	14'6	0'42	92'5	20'7
1919	27,829	20	136,000	9'3	0'32	82'8	18'2
1920	27,973	48	130,000	9'8	0'35	76'0	25'0
1921	28,355	502‡	128,157	10'2	0'25	79'3	22'1
1922	28,661	71	129,000	10'6	0'34	70'4	18'9
1923	29,414	40	130,500	9'3	0'20	64'9	16'9
1924	29,685	90	132,000	9'6	0'19	79'4	16'0
1925	30,199	83	133,500	10'6	0'30	77'1	16'3
1926	31,034	111	135,000	9'7	0'15	68'9	15'7
1927	32,260	151	139,000	10'2	0'23	63'4	14'8
1928	38,474	175	161,600°	9'6	0'34	65'7	14'4
1929	39,374	750	163,700	12'1	0'63	73'1	14'8
1930	40,519	800	165,800	10'1	0'32	57'0	14'5
1931	41,275	917	168,900	10'0	0'10	57'7	14'8
1932	45,781	1000	182,000°	9'4	0'33	69'7	13'5
1933	47,175	1000	184,500	9'9	0'21	64'5	13'4
1934	48,730	1500	184,900	10'0	0'17	57'1	13'6
1935	50,622	1854	190,000	9'7	0'16	46'5	14'4
1936	54,273	1361	192,360	10'1	0'20	51'8	15'1
1937	57,888	1606	206,500	10'4	0'18	48'5	15'7
1938	61,580	1316	229,900	9'5	0'13	56'0	16'5
1939	—	—	—	9'4	—	54'6	17'7
1940	—	—	229,400	13'3	0'11	63'0	16'4
1941	—	—	193,070	12'8	0'21	54'8	17'1
1942	—	—	207,200	10'2	0'07	62'3	19'3
1943	—	—	214,870	9'6	0'23	49'9	21'2
1944	65,926	—	220,400	9'0	0'24	48'4	24'8
1945	—	—	221,970	10'5	0'30	68'2	22'2
1946	—	—	232,850	10'0	0'32	54'3	22'4
1947	68,900	—	242,860	9'9	0'18	45'1	23'2
1948	69,950	—	250,400	8'8	0'10	45'5	20'3
1949	70,550	—	254,900	9'4	0'11	39'4	18'6
1950	71,720	—	256,800	9'4	0'06	32'6	17'3
1951	72,497	—	258,100	10'4	0'03	35'6	16'7
1952	73,828	265	261,000	8'9	0'05	31'7	15'9
1953	76,150	157	263,000	8'5	0'04	33'4	16'1
1954	76,458	95	264,600	8'2	0'015	30'4	15'76
1955	79,369	400	267,300	8'7	0'026	27'9	16'09
1956	82,089	500	272,600	8'3	0'007	26'7	17'02

* This number includes all business offices, whether in dwelling houses or factories, not occupied on the night the Census was taken.

† This number omits all business offices, factories, etc.

‡ The Census returns show unoccupied "dwellings"—not houses.

° In these years an extension of the City Boundaries took place.

Comparative Statistics of the 16 Wards in the City 1956

WARDS	R.G. Estimated Population, 1956	Acreage	Density per Acre	Number of Deaths Registered	Death Rate, 1956	Number of Births *Registered in City	Birth Rate, 1956	Number of Deaths under 1 year of age	Infantile Death Rate
Bablake ..	16644	1463	11.4	89	5.3	169	10.2	3	17.8
Charter and Binley	17002	2173	7.8	151	8.9	513	30.2	9	17.5
Chaylesmore	16669	1056	15.8	115	6.9	208	12.5	9	43.3
Earlsdon ..	14975	1903	7.8	147	9.9	150	10.0	4	26.7
Foleshill ..	15795	645	24.5	153	9.7	215	13.6	8	37.2
Godiva ...	16945	559	30.3	155	9.1	227	13.4	7	30.8
Holbrook's ...	13486	821	16.4	101	7.5	155	11.5	8	51.6
Longford ..	18271	2266	8.1	159	8.7	425	23.3	15	35.3
Lower Stoke ..	19341	849	22.8	187	9.7	268	13.9	5	18.7
Radford ..	20147	673	29.9	153	7.6	226	11.2	7	30.1
St. Michael's	17725	380	46.6	172	9.7	251	14.2	11	43.8
Sherbourne ..	16720	596	28.1	144	8.6	138	8.3	5	36.2
Upper Stoke..	21119	826	25.6	148	7.0	219	10.4	7	13.7
Walsgrave ..	17085	1550	11.0	122	7.1	255	14.9	11	43.1
Westwood ..	18722	2118	8.8	172	9.2	321	17.1	9	28.0
Whoberley ..	11954	1284	9.3	86	7.2	136	11.4	6	44.1

*These figures do not include the inwardly transferable births (764).

Return relating to Coventry Cases Treated at the Coventry and Watlington Hospitals, 1900

	TOTALS.												
	SYPHILIS.		GONORRHOEA.		Other Conditions.		TOTALS 1956.			TOTALS.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	1955.	1954.	1953.	1952.
1. No. of patients on 1st January under treatment or observation	113	163	51	6	106	42	270	211	481	513	559	490	529
2. No. of patients removed from the register during any previous year who returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection	3	7	1	...	...	...	4	7	11	12	11	20	8
3. No. of patients dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of those under item 4) suffering from:—													
A. Syphilis, Primary	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	6	...
B. " Secondary	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
C. " Latent in first year of infection ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	6	4	6
D. " Cardio-vascular ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	5	2	7	3	11	4	4
E. " of the nervous system	5	8	...	...	...	...	9	8	17	13	22	19	5
F. " all other late or latent stages	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	22
G. " Congenital (under one year) ... ..	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	10	6	9	7
H. " " (over one year) ... ..	...	...	88	16	...	...	88	16	104	119	135	116	155
I. Gonorrhoea ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...
J. Chancroid ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
K. Lymphogranuloma Inguinale ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
L. Granuloma Venereum... ..	...	...	...	...	208	73	208	73	281	274	225	203	206
M. Any other conditions requiring treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	153	92	153	92	245	277	286	366	347
N. Conditions not requiring treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	3	1	...	...	3
O. Conditions remaining undiagnosed at 31.12.56													
* Other Conditions													
4. No. of patients dealt with for the first time who have been transferred from other centres (civil or service) or from practitioners approved under Ministry of Health Circular 2226	2	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	4	6	11	24	34
TOTALS OF ITEMS 1. 2, 3 & 4	134	186	140	24	469	208	743	418	1161	1239	1280	1292	1326

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Return relating to Coventry Cases Treated at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, 1956

	Syphilis.				Gonorrhœa.				Other Conditions.				TOTALS. 1956.				TOTALS.							
	M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.		1955.		1954.		1953.		1952.	
	Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.	
5. No. of patients suffering from syphilis and gonorrhœa discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure, or who were diagnosed as "other conditions"	3	12			50	8			307	126			360	146			535	649	597				658	
6(a) No. of patients who ceased to attend before completion of treatment and were suffering from:—																								
A. Acquired syphilis of less than 1 year's duration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2			...
B. Acquired syphilis of more than 1 year's duration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	3			15
C. Congenital syphilis under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
D. " " over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5			6
E. Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3			9
6(b) Number of patients under treatment or observation known to have died:—																								
A. From syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
B. From treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			...
C. From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3			2
7. No. of patients suffering from:—																								
A. Syphilis who defaulted after completion of treatment but before final discharge	8	21			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	21			30	22	14				20
B. Gonorrhœa who defaulted	...	...	...	...	35	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	4	...	50	28	36				41	
C. Other patients	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	26			43	26			78	7	5				7	
8. No. of patients transferred to other centres or institutions or to private practitioners	5	5			15	3		29	10			4	18			65	33	65				78		
9. No. of patients remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1956	118	148			40	9		90	46			8	203			491	513	559				490		
TOTALS OF ITEMS 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9	134	186			140	24		469	208			743	418			1239	1280	1292				1326		
11. No. of attendances:—																								
A. For individual attention by the medical officer(s)	2497	1933			712	84		1862	549			5071	2566			8502	9421	9630				9327		
B. For intermediate treatment, e.g., dressings, etc.	447	432			730	478		1717	2989			2894	3899			6940	5923	5725				5466		
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	2944	2365			1442	562		3579	3538			7965	6465			15442	15344	15355				14793		

Live Register of Tuberculosis Patients.

	Pulmonary Cases.			Non-Pulmonary Cases.			Total Cases (All Forms).		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1. No. on Register at 31/12/1955...	1587	1129	2716	185	223	408	1772	1352	3124
2. Cases notified (or otherwise coming to knowledge in 1956	247	171	418	21	30	51	268	201	469
3. Cases removed from Register in 1956	158	96	254	42	72	114	200	168	368
4. No. on Register at 31/12/1956...	1676	1201	2880	164	181	345	1840	1385	3225

572

547

Tuberculosis.

YEAR	CASES ON REGISTER		CASES NOTIFIED (or brought to notice)		DEATHS			
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1947	M.	938	115	223	22		9	
	F.	572	156	143	34	0.67	11	0.08
1948	M.	998	121	209	38		15	
	F.	639	165	161	31	0.50	11	0.10
1949	M.	1057	130	238	25		13	
	F.	698	177	162	35	0.50	13	0.10
1950	M.	1086	136	184	21		7	
	F.	771	188	156	27	0.47	8	0.06
1951	M.	1063	145	247	26		10	
	F.	780	200	132	20	0.29		0.04
1952	M.	1241	159	290	23		4	
	F.	881	211	180	25	0.20	11	0.06
1953	M.	1349	167	285	17		3	
	F.	961	213	173	21	0.15	2	0.02
1954	M.	1457	177	270	27		2	
	F.	1051	215	163	15	0.15	2	0.015
1955	M.	1587	185	289	20		2	
	F.	1129	223	156	16	0.16	2	0.015
1956	M.	1676	164	247	21		4	
	F.	1201	181	171	30	0.14	1	0.018

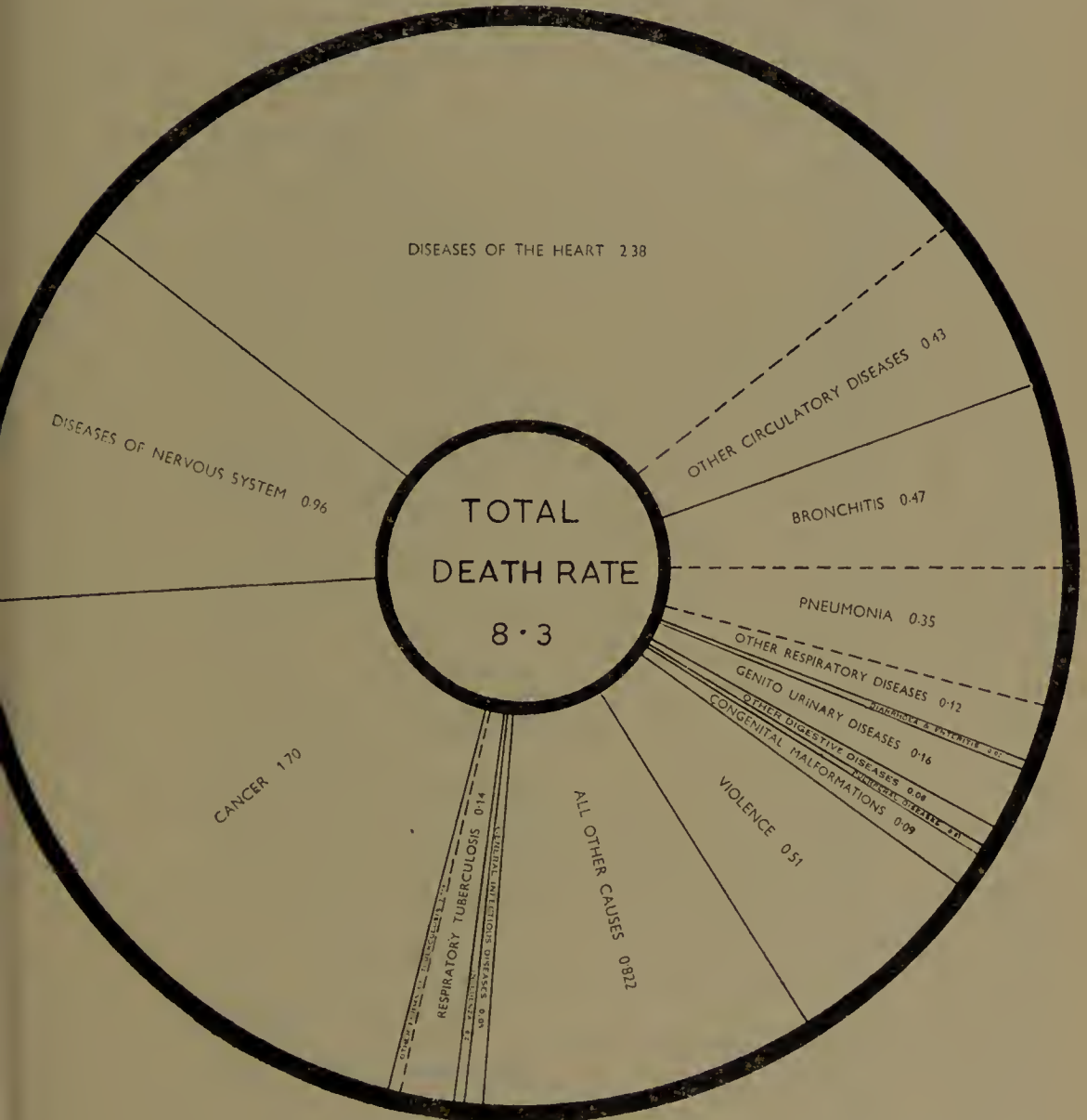
42

418

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1956

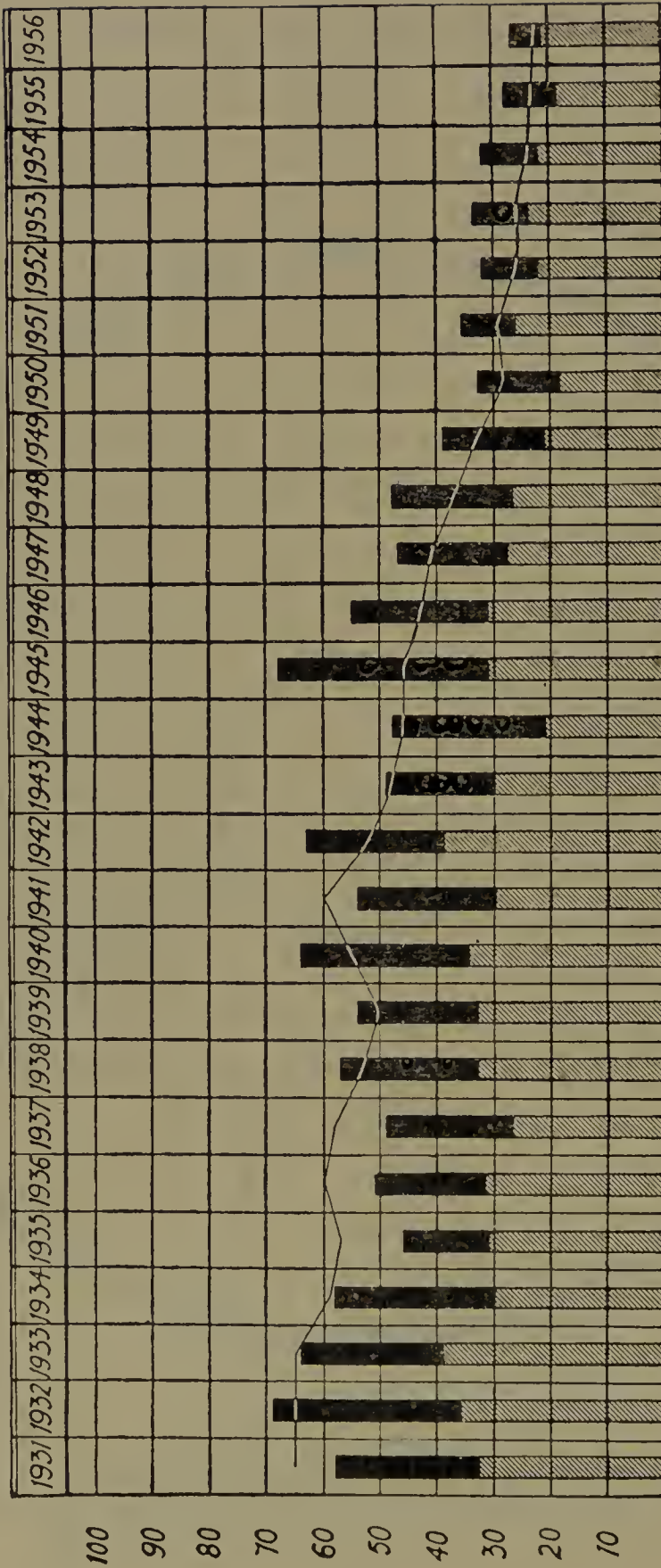
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NOTIFICATIONS IN AGE GROUPS.							NOTIFICATIONS IN THE VARIOUS WARDS OF THE CITY																
	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 45.	45 & under 65.	65 & upwards.	Bablake	Charterse & Blin.	Cheylesmore	Earlsdon	Foleshill	Godiva	Holbrook	Longford	Lower Stoke	Radford	St. Michael's	Sherbourne	Upper Stoke	Walgrave	Westwood	Whoberley	
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera (C) Plague (P) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever .. .. .	..	61	114	4	3	15	7	5	5	7	1	3	1	12	52	6	1	4	1	3	1	2	12
Tonsillitis (Streptococcal) .. .. .	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	7	2	12	5	11	4	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	13	14	20
Typhoid fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Para-typhoid fever	1	..	2	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	8	2	4	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic) .. .. .	..	..	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	..	..	..	3	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	..	..	6	7	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	4	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Respiratory Tuberculosis	409	11	29	91	169	88	21	24	43	23	19	22	30	18	38	23	30	42	9	17	18	47	6	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	47	2	10	10	23	2	..	5	2	1	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	3	1	5	
Malaria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	1334	45	347	638	55	180	54	75	60	47	24	21	79	31	439	100	109	16	17	160	44	72	40	
Acute Primary Pneumonia	133	3	4	12	5	17	55	6	7	18	10	4	8	5	9	5	11	10	6	4	5	16	9	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	15	..	1	2	2	9	1	..	1	2	4	..	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	133	10	68	49	6	..	..	8	57	3	3	3	3	8	5	1	2	4	5	9	8	9	1
Whooping Cough	1068	83	536	435	3	10	..	58	38	79	44	44	28	36	128	70	81	62	51	60	92	154	43	
Food Poisoning	169	10	22	38	16	50	29	41	6	12	4	16	9	9	18	6	21	10	3	8	3	3	..	
Total	3586	160	1054	1341	210	482	253	86	23	224	207	123	130	167	123	705	220	281	160	99	281	188	345	102

PROPORTION OF DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES
TO TOTAL DEATHS
1956



The Total Number of Deaths was 2,254
The Total Death Rate from all Causes was 8.3

CHART SHOWING THE INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS IN COVENTRY.



The Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births is represented by the chimneys, the shaded portion of which represents the death rate amongst babies under four weeks of age (*i.e.*, the neo-natal death rate).

The Infant Death Rate for England and Wales is represented by the line

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE MEMORIAL PARK, COVENTRY, 1930

Lat. 52° 23' 26". Long. 1° 31' 4" W. Height of rim of rain gauge above Mean Sea Level, 338-ft.

The cistern of the barometer is situated 301.75 feet above sea level.

Baro- meter Ins.	Air Temperature					Hygrometer			Earth Temp.		Bright Sunshine		Cloud	Rain and other Forms of Precipitation						Weather, No. of Days of						Wind Force (0—8)		Wind Directions. No. of daily observa- tions each month							
	Mean of		Difference from Average	Absolute Minimum and Maximum		Mean of Observa- tions at 9 a.m.			At 1 foot depth	At 4 feet depth	Percentage of Average	Daily Mean		Mean of Obs'ations at 9 a.m. (Scale 0.8)	Number of Days	Total Fall	Percentage of Average	Amount	Most in a Day	Snow	Hail	Thunderstorm	Clear Sky	Overcast	Fog	Gale	Number of Obser- ations of Moderate and Strong Winds 1=3	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
	Maximum A	Minimum B		Minimum	Day of Month	Maximum	Day of Month	Dry Bulb																												Depression of Wet Bulb	Vapour Pressure	Humidity

Mean Pressure at 32° F. at Sea Level	29-839	43.0	32.3	37.7	—0.7	24	25	53	26	36.4	0.7	6.8	93	43.8	171	1.93	5	18	3.76	183	0.52	22	7	1	15	6	22	1	3	•	2	4	14	1	6	
	30-286	36.5	26.0	31.3	—7.7	14	4	54	29	30.8	0.5	5.5	94	41.5	130	2.55	6	13	0.53	30	0.10	1	14	•	•	18	4	25	7	11	•	•	1	4	1	5
	29-997	51.3	35.8	43.5	+0.5	24	13	63	26	41.4	2.0	7.5	84	40.5	129	4.17	5	6	0.78	42	0.34	3	•	1	4	15	1	23	•	9	3	13	•	4	1	1
	30-006	52.0	36.3	44.1	—2.9	31	16/20	39	12	43.8	2.9	7.7	78	44.7	91	4.12	6	10	0.73	43	0.23	13	•	•	•	15	1	25	1	10	1	5	3	4	2	4
	30-162	62.8	43.7	53.3	—0.7	34	20	72	23	54.7	4.2	10.7	73	51.2	125	6.75	5	6	0.56	28	0.22	29	•	•	3	10	11	20	1	4	1	•	3	13	4	5
	30-094	62.8	48.0	55.4	—3.0	39	14	73	11	55.2	3.5	11.6	78	55.3	56	3.38	7	13	2.56	120	0.65	11	•	1	•	21	1	16	5	2	•	1	•	9	6	7
	29-932	68.3	54.3	61.3	—0.8	48	12/31	79	26	60.8	3.9	14.1	78	55.9	81	4.36	6	14	2.78	118	0.93	15	•	2	•	17	1	19	3	7	1	2	•	11	2	5
	29-799	63.5	50.2	56.9	—4.1	42	21	69	10	56.4	2.8	12.8	82	58.9	68	3.59	6	22	4.78	179	0.61	1	•	4	•	13	•	25	1	4	1	•	1	14	4	6
	29-981	63.8	51.2	57.5	+0.7	43	1	76	13	56.3	2.0	13.5	87	57.5	63	2.61	7	11	1.67	92	0.34	27	•	•	2	22	3	25	•	10	2	4	7	2	1	
	30-164	55.0	41.1	48.1	—1.7	31	26/28	63	13	48.0	1.8	10.0	87	51.9	117	3.43	6	13	1.97	71	0.66	1	•	2	7	16	7	22	3	5	•	•	3	13	•	7
	30-174	48.3	37.2	42.7	+0.3	21	23	56	8	42.1	1.6	8.0	86	45.2	97	1.50	6	12	0.68	30	0.21	8	1	•	3	23	8	21	•	5	2	2	1	4	3	13
	30-054	45.9	37.2	41.5	+2.2	26	21/22	55	2/12	41.3	0.9	8.0	93	43.0	48	0.45	7	15	2.80	103	0.58	23	2	•	•	27	10	7	20	•	1	6	4	15	2	3
	30-040	54.4	41.1	47.7	—1.5	14	4th Feb.	79	26th July	47.2	2.2	9.6	84	48.3	98	3.23	6	153	23.60	87	0.93	15th July	24	11	19	212	42	91	22	70	12	35	24	112	28	63

Meteorological Station moved from City Hospital, Whitley, to the Memorial Park, 1.4.51.
 Atmospheric Pollution Recorders moved from Whitley Pumping Station to Whitley Waterworks ½ mile S.E.
 Atmospheric Pollution Recorders moved from Edgwick Park to Foleshill Road Day Nursery, 50 yards N.W.

RAINFALL**Total Rainfall Recorded in Inches from 1895—1956**

Year	Rainfall in inches	Year	Rainfall in inches	Year	Rainfall in inches
1895	24.00	1916	28.47	1937	27.83
1896	25.21	1917	25.37	1938	22.13
1897	26.79	1918	25.24	1939	32.81
1898	19.87	1919	30.04	1940	21.27
1899	22.71	1920	27.61	1941	26.72
1900	28.88	1921	17.44	1942	21.18
1901	21.42	1922	29.73	1943	20.28
1902	22.54	1923	27.49	1944	26.84
1903	32.73	1924	31.96	1945	20.60
1904	19.98	1925	26.43	1946	29.16
1905	21.85	1926	27.66	1947	20.59
1906	26.45	1927	33.09	1948	29.16
1907	27.60	1928	26.92	1949	22.81
1908	23.14	1929	25.46	1950	24.79
1909	26.65	1930	30.99	1951	32.49
1910	29.57	1931	26.91	1952	25.86
1911	21.37	1932	29.38	1953	20.89
1912	37.02	1933	21.68	1954	30.50
1913	26.35	1934	20.96	1955	24.26
1914	25.16	1935	30.20	1956	23.60
1915	29.19	1936	27.98		

SUNSHINE**Total Sunshine Hours Recorded from 1895—1956**

Year	Hours	Year	Hours	Year	Hours
1895	1495	1916	1220	1937	1147
1896	1111	1917	1326	1938	1282
1897	1367	1918	1310	1939	1310
1898	1326	1919	1320	1940	1467
1899	1482	1920	1110	1941	1160
1900	1166	1921	1530	1942	1249
1901	1214	1922	1293	1943	1348
1902	967	1923	1246	1944	1240
1903	1096	1924	1249	1945	1255
1904	1209	1925	1266	1946	1269
1905	1052	1926	1126	1947	1293
1906	1536	1927	1107	1948	1322
1907	1354	1928	1349	1949	1587
1908	1406	1929	1489	1950	1410
1909	1478	1930	1252	1951	1365
1910	1312	1931	1159	1952	1503
1911	1555	1932	1087	1953	1361
1912	1125	1933	1456	1954	1144
1913	1169	1934	1362	1955	1356
1914	1452	1935	1374	1956	1187
1915	1463	1936	1120		

INDEX

A		Page	E		Page
Accidents in the home ...		31	Environmental Hygiene ...		96
Administrative and Clerical Staff ...		4	Epilepsy ...		84
Ambulance Service Staff ...		6	F		
Ambulance Service ...		40	Food Inspection ...		124
Atmospheric Pollution ...		132	Factories' Act (1937) ...		137
Abattoir, Public, Work of ...		110/120	Food and Drugs Act, 1955 Administration ...		120 & 124
Animal Health ...		109	Food, Unsound ...		129
Area ...		8	Factories' Inspection ...		137
B			Food Hygiene ...		130
Blind Welfare Staff ...		6	G		
Birth Rate ...		8 & 15	General Statistics ...		8
Baginton Fields Hostel ...		75	Graph, Work at Public Abattoir ...		110 & 114
Bedding, Provision of ...		53	Graph, Disease incidence in animals slaughtered ...		115
Blind Persons, Welfare of ...		88	H		
„ „ Register ...		89	Handicapped Persons:		
Bakehouses ...		138	Welfare of ...		81
Births, Legitimate ...		8	Health Committee ...		3
„ „ Illegitimate ...		8	„ „ Visitors' Staff ...		5
„ „ Still ...		8	Home Nursing Service Staff ...		6
Butter and Margarine ...		129	„ „ Help Service Staff ...		6
Burials ...		91	Health Centres ...		20
Brook Courses ...		108	„ „ Visiting ...		29 & 30
C			Home Nursing ...		32—33—34
Canal Boats ...		107	Health Education ...		57—58
Caravans, Fairs and Camping Sites ...		106	Home Help Service ...		59—60
Cesspools, Abolition ...		101	Homes for Aged People ...		72
Cleansing ...		17	Housing ...		103—104—105
Child Welfare Clinics ...		22	Houses Let-in Lodgings ...		107
Care of Premature Infants ...		24	Hospitals ...		91
Care and After-Care ...		53	Health Education ...		57
Common Lodging House ...		106	I		
Coventry Corporation Act, 1948 ...		12	Infant Mortality Chart ...		156
Cancer ...		5	Infantile Mortality ...		8 & 15
Cancer (Death Rate) ...		8	Infectious Diseases ...		16
Cerebral Palsy ...		82 & 83	Immunisation Service ...		34
Convalescence ...		58 & 59	Infant Mortality (Ages Tables) ...		148
Crematorium ...		93	Infectious Diseases (Notification Tables) ...		154
D			Infectious Diseases Deaths ...		16
Day Nurseries' Staff ...		5	Ice Cream Regulations ...		123
Deaf and Dumb Persons ...		84 & 85	M		
Death Rate (General) ...		8 & 15	Municipal Midwives' Staff ...		5
Dental Care ...		24	M.O.H. Preamble ...		6
Day Nurseries ...		26 & 27	Maternal Mortality ...		8 & 16
Death Causes and Ages ...		142	Mass Radiography ...		17
Dwellings (Inhabited) ...		8	Maternity Outfits, Provision of ...		26
Deaths (Childbirth) ...		8	Midwifery ...		28
Death Rate (Infant) ...		8	Mental Health ...		60
Deaths (Infectious Diseases) ...		8	„ „ Lunacy Acts, 1890-91 ...		63
Death Rate (Respiratory) ...		8	„ „ Treatment Acts, 1930 ...		63
„ „ (Phthisis) ...		8	„ „ Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938 ...		64
„ „ (Other forms of Tuberculosis) ...		8	„ „ Defectives' Register ...		64
„ „ (Cancer) ...		8	Meals for Sick and Aged ...		55—56
Deaths, Proportions to total (Chart) ...		155	Magisterial Proceedings ...		131
Dust Bins ...		162			
Dust and Grit Nuisances ...		135			
Dysentery (Survey) ...		37—39			

INDEX—continued

	Page		Page
Markets, Shops and Stores		Sanitary Inspector, Chief,	
Inspection	128	Report of	96
Milk	121	Sanitary Inspectorate	4
„ Designated	122	Scabies	17
„ Purveyors	121	Sanitary Administration	
„ Sampling	122	(General)	96
„ Bacteriological Examination	122	Sanitary Provision	101
Meat Inspection	108 & 120	„ Inspection of District	
Meteorological Observation	157	Suppression of Nuisances	
Marriage Rates	8 & 15	(Sanitary) (10-Year Summary)	99
Mother and Baby Home ...	27	Sanitary Miscellaneous Work	
		(10-Year Summary)	100
N		Smoke Prevention	132—133
National Health Service Act,		Smoke Nuisance	134
1946	20	Staff Changes	95
National Assistance Act, 1948	67	Statistical Tables and Charts	
Neo-natal Mortality	15	(List)	141
Nursing Equipment and		Statistics (Vital, of City) ...	143
Apparatus	56	„ Comparative	144
Nuisance Abatement	99	„ Historical Summary	149
		„ Wards of City	150
O		Sunshine Records	158
Occupation Centre	66	Superannuation (Medical Ex-	
Outworkers	138	aminations)	93—94
Offensive Trades	107	T	
Old Peoples Homes,		Tuberculosis (Survey of) 17 & 53	
Registration	79	Temporary Accommodation,	
Occupational Therapy	35	Part III, National Assist-	
		ance Act, 1948	74
P		Tuberculosis (Live Register)	151
Partially Sighted Register ...	90	„ Summary of Cases	
Pensioners Committee	3	„ Notified	153
Public Health Staff	4	„ Summary of Cases	
Population	8 & 15	„ on Register	153
Premature Infants	24	„ Summary of	
Prevention of Illness	53	Deaths Notified	
Pig-keeping	102	during 1954 and	
Poliomyelitis	16—35—36	Previous Years	153
Premises Registered for		„ Death Rate from	
Storage or Sale of Food ...	120	other forms	153
Puerperal Deaths	8	U	
R		Unmarried Mothers and their	
Rateable Value of City	8	Children	27
Rates (Sums represented by		V	
Penny Rate)	8	Venereal Diseases (Survey) 19 & 55	
Rainfall records	158	Vaccination Service	34 & 35
Resident Persons, Part III,		Vermineous Premises	102
National Assistance Act,		Venereal Diseases (Tables) 151 &	152
1948	74	W	
Refuse disposal	101	Welfare Foods, Supply of ...	20
References to other Depart-		„ Services	75 & 87
ments	102	Welfare Service Staff	7
Removal of persons	80	Water Supply	91
Rodent Control	130	„ „ Chemical and	
Rates (Birth and Death,		Bacteriological	
Infant and Maternal Mor-		Analyses	92
tality, 20 Large Towns) 146 & 147		Welfare of Old People	86
		Waste Land & Bombed Sites	107



